# THE HINDOO PATRIOT

## With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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## THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 23RD DECEMBER.

MR. FORBES, the Special Correspondent of the *London Daily News*, gives the following account of Simla:

The highest part of Simla is about 8,000 feet above the sea level, and the great ascent is very skilfully managed in the road which winds and zigzags into the heart of valleys and up the shoulders of hills in a bewildering manner that utterly routs all efforts to maintain a consciousness of one's bearings. The scenery traversed by this road is curiously tame and ugly. There are no precipices, there is very little wood, and what continually meets the eye is a confused and tedious jumble of shapeless, lumpy hills, among whose stumpy nobs and monotonous slopes you seek in vain for any feature of beauty. When we were about half way General Stewart pointed to a lofty black peak visible for a few minutes in the remote distance, and announced in a matter-of-fact tone that that was Simla. Simla, one had been given to understand, was a habitation of men, to say nothing of women, but the imagination failed to comprehend civilized dwellers and habitable residences around the steep summit of a peak apparently clothed by a primeval pine-forest. Yet, as we drew nearer and nearer to this strange hill capital, here and there roofs and verandahs became visible from out beneath the all-pervading sombre greenery. To the very last the averment that in very truth this was Simla over against one there on the face of a slope that only ceased to be steep where it became precipitous, seemed to me the General's little joke. These bungalows that were fitfully visible above and before us—this one, to all appearance, built on scaffolding of poles the failure of which would bring the whole superstructure rattling down into the road about our ears—that one hanging on, so to speak, by its eyebrows to a mere shelf in the face of a precipice, must be mere outlying eccentricities of citizens who loved singularity. Beyond that knife-like ridge that stood up against the skyline, the joggedness of it toned down by the wealth of foliage clinging to its edge, there must be a town of some sort or other. Did not the Viceroy abide here, and must not a palace house the illustrious person of Her Majesty's representative? Was there not gathered here the whole Supreme Government of a great empire? Were members of Council, whose borders spread wide over the compounds of Chouringee, to be expected to live the life of limpets, clinging on convulsively to tiny ledges on the face of a precipice? Where within the scope of our view rose a sumptuous pile, the pride (mingled with nervousness) of a brilliant and officient Public Works Department, and under whose lofty roof all the great departments of State were within that convenient distance of each other which so materially *facilitates the* progress of public business? Hotels, the theatre, assembly rooms, the club, the promenade—one was surely entitled to look for all these, and where was sign or token of them on the face of this craggy wooded amphitheatre which looked down mockingly on us? The General has a fine fund of dry Scottish humour; this questionless, was being exerted towards the mystification of the unsophisticated stranger.

Again:

Simla is unique. You may ransack your experience in vain for any place wherewith to liken it. Suppose the Righi clothed with deodars, and the houses of Buyukdere and Prinkipo shaken out over it from a big peppercaster—if you try to imagine this and succeed reasonably you have still but a mere faint glimmering conception of Simla. Simla consists of a number of detached bungalows, strewed over the face and upon the sharp ridge of a great concave precipice, looking down into a wooded abyss of dizzy profundity. I have seen no house, however small, built on a naturally level site. Most of the sites must have been won only by blasting into the face of the sheer rock. Lady Lytton's pony phaeton is the only wheeled vehicle in Simla: there is but one track along which she can drive it, and that had to be altered and widened before it was available. Into the face of the slopes and precipices are cut narrow steep zigzagging pathways which form the means of communication between the residences. If you are of the male sex, you get about Simla on a pony, and the Simla ponies, I have no doubt, could climb trees or go down chimney flues, if put to it. Many ladies ride also; but the usual means of conveyance for the softer sex is a sort of shallow litter called a *jampaun* carried by four Native bearers. People, according to sex, go out to dinner on pony back or in the *jampaun*. Simla differs *toto cœlo* from Washington; but there is one point of resemblance— both are places of magnificient distances. From one end of Simla to the other the distance cannot be under four miles. If you are very industrious, and do not listen to the voice of any charmer, you may make three morning calls in one day if none of the people you are visiting chance to be widely outlying. It is not alone that the distances are so great but that the habitation are so difficult to find. One lives up on a peak, in comparison with the track to which the maze at Hampton Court is ridiculously simple. You see the name of a house which you want, and of its occupant, painted on a board nailed to a tree on the road side; you look over the edge, and about two hundred feet below, on all but sheer descent, are visible the projecting fragments of a verandah and a smoking chimney. You involuntarily look out for a spiral staircase, and wonder whether your pony will carry you down this; but the way down turns out to be by a zigzag pathway, about a foot broad, and having an average descent of one in two. The public offices are strewn fitfully all over the place. The Telegraph Office is about half-way down a precipice, the Post Office you would not find in a week but for a big poster. The Military Department is in a chance bungalow at one end of Simla, the Adjutant General's Office in a red house up a break-neck hill path quite at the other, the Quartermaster-Generals is somewhere over the edge of a precipice.

Yes, Simla is a town of precipices The distance from the houses is something formidable. One cannot go to the next house without making a circuitous journey of some two miles.

How CURIOUS it is that theatres and newspaper offices should lead the way in all modern improvements! It is a *New York Herald*'s own weather prophet who, to some extent, guides the whirlwind and directs the storm for the benefit of English mariners, its information being transmitted by cable to the office in Fleet-street. It is a theatrical manager who ventilates the electric light, and an original newspaper proprietor who has made it subservient to the purposes of municipal elections. On the night of the 1st instant the names of the successful candidates at the Liverpool municipal elections were exposed upon an electrically-lighted transparency, with the results of the polling, before the eyes of an astonished crowd in front of the *Daily Post* office in Liverpool.

A GENTLEMAN writes to the *Rangoon Gazette* from Mandalay to say that a "gold mountain," one day's journey from that city, had been discovered. The ore said to have been brought from this wonderful mountain is stated to be pure, but has not yet been analysed. The mountain of gold may of course only exist in the discoverer's imagination, although it is not by any means improbable that a vein may have been struck, as gold is known to exist in various parts, both of Upper and Lower Burma.

IT IS STATED that over two hundred petroleum wells are worked by natives of the country in the Kyouk-Phyoo district in British Burma.

TWO ELECTRITIANS in New York have patented an invention for the sub-division of the electric light. A company has been formed for the purpose of working the patent, which is said to be a great success.

THE BODY of Mr. Stewart, the New York millionarie, has been stolen from the vault in which it was deposited. What benefit will the thieves derive from this piece of larceny?

TUESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.

A CURIOUS anecdote about Morny is related by his former diplomatic colleague at St. Petersburg: When Morny was appointed as Minister in the Russian capital he arrived with a long procession of splendid elegant carriages, and countless trunks all crammed full of laces, silks and ladies' toilettes, for which, as a foreign envoy he had no duty to pay. Every single servant had his own carriage, every secretary and attache at least two, and he himself five or six. Two days after his arrival he sold the whole lot by auction—carriages, lace, fashionable costumes and all! The profits by this transaction were enormous. So Morny's conscience was in his pocket.

IT IS STATED there have been one hundred and fifty failures in Glasgow and in the West of Scotland which may be traced to the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank. The liabilities of the Scotch firms that have been dragged down are £25,000,000. The value of the capital of the Scotch banks on Oct. 1 was £24,000,000, on Nov. 1 it was £19,009,000.

THE FAMINE on the plains of Madras, it would appear, affected the health of the people on the hills. Dr. Cornish, Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, says that all the hill stations on the Neilghiris were unhealthy in 1877 and cholera for the first time in half a century prevailed for several weeks in an epidemic form in Ootacamund and Coonor.

THE NUMBER of accidents on Indian railways during 1876 and 1877 was 2,564, the total train-miles run in the latter year being 29,606,593; thus showing the average number of train-miles run per accident was 4,373; and on no line was it less than 2,806, excepting the Punjab Northern Railway. Casualties to passengers, railway servants, and others, numbered 224 killed and 359 wounded in 1876; and 370 killed and 303 wounded in 1877. The greatest number of collisions in the two years under review occurred on the Madras Railways. The South Indian Railway stands next in the list, and then the G.I.P. Railway.

DEATHS in trains and at stations occurred most numerously on the E. I. Railway. There were 21 landslips in the G. I. P. Railway but none attended with any serious result; and 201 and 241 fires respectively in 1876 and 1877 on all lines.

THE WORLD seems likely to have several new exhibitions in hand. Besides the one at Sydney fully determined on, Italy, New York, and one or two other localities appear to be ambitious of getting "all the World and his Wife" to pay them a visit.

THE KHEDIVE has presented to the French Department of Public Instruction, for the Ethnographical Museum, the superb and highly interesting collection of arms, utensils, and other articles from the Soudan, an equatorial province of Egypt, which were displayed in the Retrospective Gallery of the Trocadero.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has, it is stated, approved of a scheme proposed by Captain Featherstonhaugh for training a certain number of men for torpedo practice and submarine-mining, and the ports of Calcutta, Rangoon, Bombay and Kurrachee have been chosen for the purpose. The cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 50,000. Will natives be allowed an opportunity to learn this practice?

THE PARIS EXHIBITION has been closed. The total number of admissions has been 16,032,725, an average of about 82,000 per day; and the gross receipts since the 1st of May have been 12,653,746f. Those of 1867 were 9,830369f. In 1867, moreover, there were only 400,000 free admissions; whereas there were this year 950,000.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH DECEMBER.

WE LEARN from the *Statesman* that the Begum of Bhopal has sent an Agent to Constantinople. He is named Haji Muhammad Husain, and his mission is twofold. In the first place, he has to present to the Sultan two copies of commentaries on the Koran, one written by the hand of the Begum's illustrious husband, Nawab Saidi Muhammad Sadik Hasan Khan, and the other by the hand of the Prime Minister of Bhopal. The Emissary is also charged with the duty of inquiring into the expenditure of the Bhopal contribution to the Turkish sick and wounded fund. This contribution amounted to no less than three lakhs and five thousand rupees.

THE FOLLOWING is a programme of Sir A. Layard's scheme of Turkish Reforms: (1) A local gendarmerie, officered by Europeans; (2) appellate Courts with European assessors; (3) the substitution of other taxes for the tithes, (4 the confirmation of officials for a term of years. These four points the Porte is said to have accepted—with the following changes. Instead of European officers, there will be European instructors for the gendarmerie: instead of appellate courts with European assessors, there will be inspectors commissioned to write annual reviews on the administration of justice, and the Porte has no objection to select them from among European jurisconsults; the abolition of the tithes will be effected when new taxes can be devised in their place, and officials will hold their offices during good behaviour, that is, during the pleasure of the Porte. Besides these alterations, the scheme will be restricted for the present to one or two provinces of Asia Minor, and the Porte must be the judge of the proper time to introduce it.

FEVER is decimating Agra and its neighbourhood. An Agra correspondent of the *Statesman* writes as follows:

I had three severe attacks of it during six weeks. Among the natives, the poorer classes were left to themselves, as the doctors had enough to do to look after their European patients. The natives who had means at their disposal, flocked to the quacks in the city, who filled their coffers at the expense of many lives. We know nothing about the deaths in the country round about, but one morning, finding myself strong enough for a ramble, I passed through a neighbouring village, and seeing a man mournfully seated on a raised platform near his house, I questioned him about the fever thereabout. I was told that the villagers were in a wretched state, that all work was at a standstill, and that the people were dying either from hunger or disease. The mortality, said my informant, was so great in the village, that the dead could not be removed soon enough, and the bodies were in consequence allowed, oftentimes, to lie in the houses for several days.

What a horrible tale is this? Will the Government make no enquiry into the cause of this fearful outbreak!

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows:

I have noticed a very strange fact in the letter you received from Dacca and published in your issue of the 9th instant, under date, Thursday the 5th December. I cannot possibly imagine how Babu Rajendralal Sircar, quite a novice, "ought to get the thanks from the authorities" for the construction of the Toongee Bridge, when there is a District Engineer here, under whose orders the work has been executed. If your correspondent meant to speak about the subordinate

establishment only, then he has made a mistake. Because if any credit is to be given to any subordinate for this work, I must say to do justice, that it ought to be given to Babu Gangadinath Mookerjea, the Head Overseer of the Dacca Road Cess Committee. Babu Gangadinath did a good portion of the work before the floods of 1877 came in and long before Babu Rajendralal Sircar came to Dacca. When the work was resumed again after the floods had subsided. Baboo Gungadinath having a lot of other works in his charge, Baboo Rajendra Lal Sircar was then recently appointed as second overseer, was placed at the Bridge but having been found quite raw for such a work he was ordered to work under the instructions of Baboo Gungadinath Mookerjee, who accordingly not only sent instructions always but inspected the works at intervals and also when found necessary stopped at the site of the works for days together undergoing much hardship.

I may here also observe that no doubt our much lamented the late Raja of Bhowal was the donor of this Bridge. But no one has been more benefited by the construction of such a costly bridge in the jungle (which has cost the Road Cess Committee of Dacca fully half as much money again as was given by the Raja than the donors; because this bridge forms an uninterrupted communication between the town of Dacca and his palace at Bhowal. Some body may urge that it has been constructed on the Mymensingh road and the public is also benefited as well by it, but I am sorry to say that this road has been very nearly if not altogether been abandoned and therefore such a costly bridge was not required here at all for the public in general.

We regret to notice the death of a deserving countryman, Babu Pearylal Singha, which melancholy event occurred on the 18th instant. He was the Editor of the Burdwan *Parichárika* and proprietor of the Burdwan Press, Head Master of the Burdwan English School, and Secretary and Minister of the Burdwan Brahmo Somaj. He has left two sons and a disconsolate widow to mourn his loss.

We have received an account of two public meetings held by that indefatigable reformer, Munshi Pearylall, at Durbhanga and Mudhubani. The first was held on the 23rd ultimo and attended by the District Magistrate, the Maharaja of Durbhanga and other European and native gentlemen. Amongst other things connected with the proceedings was an impressive address delivered by the Maharaja, which it is said had great effect in strengthening the party of the reformer in regard to the prevailing extravagance of Hindu nuptials. The second meeting was held at Mudhubani on the 18th instant, which was attended, we are informed, by about 1000 persons, amongst whom was the sub-divisional officer, G. A. Grierson Esq, who presided. The business transacted consisted firstly in the reading of the proceedings of other committees, the rules of Mathila Brahmins, and the resolution for regulating the management of village Anjumans, and secondly in explaining the Vyvasthas or opinions of learned pundits and others of different places regarding the practice of selling girls on the plea of marriage, and polygamy. The authorities consulted were the Maharajas of Kashmir, Patialah, Jeypore, Benares and other places, and the pundits of Tirhoot, who were unanimous in maintaining that there was nothing in the Sastras which upheld the obnoxious practices and justified extravagance in marriage ceremonies. Amongst other facts laid before the meeting was one which created a sensation. It was stated that by the death of fifty Bikana Maithila Brahmins about 665 women of various ages had become widows!

### Thursday 26th December.

In the attack on the Peiwar Kotal there were several hand-to-hand fights. We learn that Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow, commanding the 72nd Highlanders, had an encounter with an Affghan swordsman, the Colonel getting the better of the combat, and killing his enemy with his claymore. Lieutenant Munro of the same regiment (who it will be remembered was wounded by a musket shot in the shoulder) also had a fight with one of the enemy, and in the struggle both fell, the Affghan getting away from the gallant young Scotchman, and making tracts for his comrades.

General John Wilson C. B. it is said, is coming out as Military correspondent of the *Times* during the Affghan war.

A Telegram from Ali Musjid dated the 23rd instant 1878 reports return on the 22nd idem of a small punitive expedition sent into Bazar Valley. General Tytler from Dhaka had co-operated with Jamrud troops in Bazar Valley, which was entirely overrun Two towers and fourteen villages were destroyed. Our loss only one Ghoorka sepoy wounded.

We have received the following letter on Christmas gifts made to Christian gentlemen by Native gentlemen:

Dear Sir,—My business avocations bring me a good deal into contact with the Native community, and, as a result, my Christmas morning is made a burden to me by the constant arrival of gifts from Native friends, consisting of tray after tray, covered with huge fish Native sweets, fruits &c., &c. These are not suited to the European taste, and therefore they are all handed over to the servants in the establishment, who either resell them or distribute them amongst their families. Now, Mr. Editor, as this is a species of mistaken kindness, from which the European community all more or less suffer at this season of the year, you would confer a very great favour, if you would use your powerful influence, to induce the Native gentry to discontinue this practice, or if their prejudices render it necessary, that they should at this season recognise favours past or prospective, let their generosity take a more useful form, and I could suggest that in Messrs. Hamilton's, Osler's, Newman's or Browne's beautiful shops, they will find many articles, which will be duly appreciated, or should they be unable to rid their minds of the idea that Christmas is simply a time for extra feeding, let them confine their gifts to a cake which may be procured at the Great Eastern, or a case of Renard's Champagne or of Exshaw's No. 1 Brandy, but spare, Oh! spare us from these terrible trays with the accompanying army of jemadars, coolies, and hangers on invading the privacy of one's house.

I am,
Your's Sincerely,
A Victim.

*Christmas day* 1878.

Our correspondent is too late. We hope his native friends will remember his suggestion next year. Let them not take his letter as a mere Christmas frolic, for he seems to be in sober earnest.

We have received the following letter from London regarding Mr. Wilson of the *Indian Daily News*:

November 9th 1878.

Dear Mr. Editor,—I see in your last paper that Mr. James Wilson of the *Indian Daily News* is about to return to you; and you say you are glad. I know Mr. Wilson very well, and have seen some of his good work in England for India; and do you know that I am inclined to grieve when you rejoice? Could you not give Mr. Wilson a real, a resolute and an unmistakeable call to try to find his duty to India henceforth in Parliament? He can speak clearly and well. He has unbounded pluck. He is as earnest a friend of India as lives. I mentioned to him one day that I thought he ought to do this duty, and his reply "India has not asked me." When India knows this perhaps it may ask him. At all events I shall throw out the hint. If it falls on good ground, well. If not no harm will be done. Please dear Mr. Editor.

Yours Sincerely,
*Anglo-Indian.*

Our Manchester friends seem to pass restless nights in their anxiety for the good of India. Their Chamber of Commerce have proposed, we read, that "a duty of 10 per cent., or 20 per cent. on silver, should be imposed." "Silver," observes the *Englishman*. "is an article of luxury, and if the people of India found silver dear they would buy more Manchester goods instead. A duty of 20 per cent on silver in the East would — they say in Manchester—regulate the supply and send exchange to par; and it would be the more just, since the present position is that India and our other Eastern possessions denude themselves of all their gold to enrich Germany and America; and if we at home pay a duty on silver, why not India?" In this way silver will be transmuted into gold.

This is the harvest season, but there is yet no appreciable increase in the stocks of rice in the Calcutta bazars. Strange to say that the retail price has risen from 10 to 12 annas per maund within the last two weeks.

A Correspondent complains that the Suburban Municipality, notwithstanding repeated applications, has done nothing to improve the Bagmari Road, which runs from Manicktollah. This road has not been touched for some five or six years, and the Commissioners do not even acknowledge the receipt of the representations made to them. The people are put to great inconvenience in consequence of the neglected state of the road. The drainage of the locality is also not attended to. Fever and cholera have been widely prevalent there. Now that Mr. Sterndale has come back, we hope he will personally inspect the road and the drains of the locality and do the needful.

Another Correspondent complains that the pariah dogs have of late increased so much in this town that it is not safe to walk about after night-fall. Some cases of dog-bite lately occurred in Shampooker Street. We believe there is an establishment under the Police Commissioner for the destruction of pariah dogs in the town. It would be well if a monthly report of the work done by this establishment were published. We hope Mr. Lambert will look into this matter.

### Friday, 20th December.

General Dhir Shamsher Bahadur, brother of the Chief Minister of Nepal is expected in Calcutta on a special mission to the Viceroy accompanied by Colonel Impey, late officiating Resident in Nepal.

Several of the Chiefs of India have conveyed to Her Majesty their condolences on the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, which have been graciously acknowledged by the Queen.

The following is from a Correspondent at Ampta:

It is said that our Officiating Commissioner Mr. Pellew, on the report of the District Magistrate of Howrah regarding the removal of the Deputy Magistrate's Court of Mohesraka to Ampta having juisdiction over four stations, viz. Shampore, Ooloobareah, Bagnan, and Ampta has recommended that arrangement to the Bengal Government. But the Government wishes to be satisfied that Amptah, which has been chosen for the seat of the Subdivision, would be proper centre of the four stations and that the people would have easy access to it. The Government is quite right in taking time to consider the matter. The distance which the people of the Shampore station will have to travel and the trouble and expenses which they will have to encounter if both their civil and criminal courts be located at Ampta, are subjects which require the serious consideration of the Government. It can be fairly said that the people of the three stations, Shampore, Ooloobareah and Bagnan will have nothing to complain if both the Deputy Magistrate's Court of Mohesraka and the Moonsiffs' Court of Ooloobareah be removed to Chundipore. For the exclusion of the civil jurisdiction of the people of the Juggutbullubpore Station from Ampta to Howrah has not produced any salutary effect. The people are put to great inconvenience in coming to Howrah and it is for that reason the institution of suits at the Howrah Moonsiff's court has diminished to about half the original number. Hence to do justice to the people of Juggutbullubpore, I think, it would be necessary to transfer its civil jurisdiction to Ampta as it was before, and the court having the two Stations Ampta and Juggutbullubpore should have ample work to do and good number of cases to dispose of. However looking to all the circumstances and considering the advantages and disadvantages of the people of the five stations referred to I am of opinion that if our Government really feels for the people itwill, I hope, approve of the proposal for the removal of the Deputy Magistrate's court at Mohesraka and the Moonsiff's Court at Ooloobareea to Chundipore.

The Indian Railway Conference is put off till next July; but a preliminary Conference of Railway Agents is proposed to be held at Calcutta on the 1st of February.

The Indian Daily News has received the following telegram from Madras: "The famine is over, but there is still a good deal of distress; all but three famine relief works are to be closed on the 31st, and those will be carried out by local officers. All foreign officers will be relieved by the 1st proximo, and the Famine Commissioner will also be relieved by the end of December."

It would seem that the philosopher's stone has been discovered. A correspondent of the London *Daily News* has the following:

"To-day (Monday), in the presence of a small party of scientific men, Mr. Lockyer, by the aid of a powerful voltaic current, volatilised copper within a glass tube, dissolved the deposit formed within the tube in hydrochloric acid, and then showed, by means of the spectroscope, that the solution contained no longer copper, but another metal, calcium the base of ordinary lime. The experiment was repeated with other metals and with corresponding results. Nickel was thus changed into cobalt and calcium into strontium. All these bodies, as is well known, have ever been regarded as elementary that is as incapable of being resolved into any components or of being changed one into another. It is on this basis that all modern chemistry is founded, and should Mr. Lockyer's discovery bear the test of further trial, our entire system of chemistry will require revision. The future possibilities of the discovery it is difficult to limit. The great object of the old alchemists was of course to transmute base metals into gold, and so far as our knowledge goes, there is no more reason why copper should not be changed into gold as well as into calcium."

Wonders will never cease.

There was a Commission lately appointed to report on the practicability of improving the prospects of the graduates of the Bombay University. In a Resolution upon the report of this Commission Sir Richard Temple has ruled that a graduate, desirous of being so employed, should serve first as 2nd Karkun in a Mamlutdar's office for one year and then pass an examination before a Permanent Committee, to qualify himself for the 1st Karkunship, after holding which for six months he has to pass another examination for the office of Mamlutdar, in all those subjects which a Mamlutdar is required to know. He shall then be made a Mamlutdar. This, says the *Indu Prokash*, is only a repetition of the rule that Sir Philip Wodehouse introduced with this difference that it makes the chances of such appointments being given to the graduates more secure. This is, however, no small difference, and the graduates ought to feel grateful to Sir Richard Temple.

### Saturday, 21st December.

We are glad to observe that Babu Denonath Sen has been appointed Assistant Inspector. He is an intelligent, able, and experienced officer of the education department. With reference to this appointment a correspondent informs us that Babu Koylas Chunder Sen, who had been originally appointed to this post, has withdrawn of his own accord.

The Collector of Vizagapatam gives the following account of the damage done by the late storm there:

The tempest of 4th—10th December has done great damage to horse gram on high lands. The difficulty of communication owing to unbridged and impassable rivers prevents information being obtained as to what damage has been done to the rice crop. A violent gale from the north, then N.N.E., raged from Tuesday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. Heavy rain on Friday and Saturday. Apprehension of considerable damage to crops on low-lying lands in littoral taluks. Wind now S. The rain-fall at Vizagapatam



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from 4th to 10th was 26 inches. It was about the same in Srungavarpukota, and it has been telegraphed (1) from Chicacole that the town and surrounding country is flooded, (2) from Bimlipatam that the Chittivalsa river is no passable by boat, (3) from Vizianagram that the water has topped the bund of the great tank, and (4) from the South that the plains near Anakapalle are under water. Damage to salt works must be great. A telegram has just been received reporting that there was 70 hours' rain at Bobbili and Salur, and a great part of the rice crop in those taluks destroyed. The only considerable bridges left in the district are those near Cholavaram and near Anakapalle; the first is said to have fallen.

REIS EFFENDI thus condemns the vulgar curiosity of English women:

There are in this generally misguided country many thousands of persons whose greatest happiness is to be present in court when an important case is on. Of times this passion is carried to indecency. I am not squeamish but I confess it made me almost ill to see the court crowded with women at the trials of Wainwright, and the wretched creatures concerned in Penge murder. Young women—not "bakers' wives" as Falstaff would say—ladies (save the mark), actually jostled each other in the attempt to look upon the tear drenched faces of Alice Rhodes and the other miserable woman in the dock. Among those at the Wainright and Penge trials were the wives of barristers, at least one Duchess, and many other persons of quality—truly a sickening show.

So the zenana system has at least one merit. It prevents Indian women from making such displays.

A NEW KIND of earring has come into fashion in America. It consists of a sort of net of finely spun gold, which will fit over the ear something like an ear-muff. The net is made after the fashion of a spider's web, and resting upon it is a fly in iridescent enamel.

WE OBSERVE that at a late meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation a motion was unanimously carried "that an address of condolence be submitted by the Chairman on behalf of the Corporation to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, expressive of the deep sorrow and grief felt by the inhabitants of this city at the receipt of the melancholy intelligence of the sad and most untimely death of Her Royal Highness the lamented Princess Alice of Hesse, and of our heartfelt sympathy with Her Imperial Majesty in this sad bereavement which it has pleased God to visit her with." The Calcutta Corporation ought to forward a similar address of condolence.

THE ENGLISHMAN reports an unique instance of the popularity of a tax-collector in England. The leading residents of Hammersmith presented the Collector of the assessed taxes of that Parish with a testimonial of silver plate, as a witness to the tact and courtesy with which for a period of thirty years he had succeeded in discharging so unpleasant a duty. One speaker after another rose at the meeting to testify to the kindly feelings entertained by the rate-payers towards a functionary who is ordinarily regarded as a sort of natural enemy of his kind. The gentleman referred to is Mr. A. J. Roberts brother of our redoubted J. B. R.

WE ARE sorry to record the death of Babu Nagendrachunder Ghose of Pathuriahghatta. He was the second son of the late Babu Anandnarain Ghose. He was in the prime of life, about 40 years of age. He was a rigid orthodox Hindu, and took much interest in Brahminical culture. He was also charitably disposed.

BABU MUTHURANATH SARMA writes to us from Sylhet to say that the criminal case against Radhagobind Munshi has been closed, and that the judgment will be delivered shortly. The same correspondent says that "the Judge of Sylhet is said to have just reported to the High Court the case of a European Magistrate *having altered his own finding* in a proceeding when it formed the subject of an appeal"

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications:—1. Report of the Jeypore School of Arts. 2. Political Liberty and the best means for its attainment by the Natives of India, by a Hindu youth now residing in Europe. 3. The Saddarshana Chintanika or studies in Indian Philosophy, Vol. II. No. 10 for October, 1878. 4. Kulkipuran in Bengali verse. By Bhoobunchunder Bysack. 5. The Condition of Hindu women in olden days, being short sketches of the lives of eminent Hindu Ladies in Bengali. By Pearychand Mittra.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

*London 21st December.*—The Stock Exchange Committee have expelled four Members of the Exchange, and suspended two others for unfair dealings in Bank shares.

*23rd.*—In a leading article upon the subject of the flight of the Amir from Cabul the *Times* this morning says the Amir has virtually dethroned himself. If he afterwards should return, and submit to the British Government, his rights will possibly be respected. Should he not follow this course, another Prince must be promptly recognised.

*24th.*—The leading article in this morning's *Standard* supports the recognition of Yakub Khan, instead of Shere Ali, if the former agrees to the rectification of the Frontier, the admission of British Officers, and the interruption of relations with Russia. The Duke of Edinburgh is appointed Rear Admiral.

*28th.*—News has arrived from the Cape stating that in his message to King Cetewayo Sir Bartle Frere asks the former to disarm and disband his army to cede San Lucia Bay and to receive a Resident. News has arrived that the Amir has failed in an attempt to incite the Turcomans to take up arms in his cause against the British Government.

*St. Petersburgh 21st December.*—The *Golos* announces the publication of correspondence from Cabul, dated October 13th. This describes the cordial reception afforded to the Mission by the Amir, it states that a Convention has been concluded relating to administration and on the question of succession recognising the existing *regime*. No offensive and defensive alliance has been agreed upon but Russian obligations to morally support the integrity and independence of Affghanistan. When the Amir consulted with General Stolieiff concerning what reception the British Mission should receive, the latter gave an evasive answer, stating that the simultaneous sojourn at Cabul of Embassies from two countries that were almost hostile, would be at the least inconvenient. The Amir, so says the correspondence, thereupon decided to refuse to receive the British Mission.

*Constantinople, 22nd December.*—The Turkish Commissioners have been appointed for the rectification of the Greek frontier.

*23rd.* The Sultan to-day issued an Imperial tirade, in which he authorizes the conclusion of an arrangement relative to Bosnia and Novibazar in accordance with the proposals of Austria.

*Athens December 27th.*—Greek commissioners have been appointed for the ratification of the Turko-Grecian frontier.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1878.

## THE WAR.

Beyond the occupation of Jellalabad our troops have not made further progress since the narratives of events we chronicled last week. There was a successful raid made upon Bazar Valley. The Zuka Kehyls gave trouble to our troops. According to the telegram received by the *Pioneer* the following troops assembled at the valley on the noon of the 19th instant:—300 of the 17th Regiment, 250 of the 27th P. N. I., 100 Sikhs, two mountain guns, and half a company Sappers, belonging to General Tytler's column. Bazar Valley was reached on the following day, and communication established with General Maude's force which consisted of the following:—300, 5th Fusiliers; 200 51st; 500, 2nd Goorkhas; Mhairwarra Battalion, and four mountain guns and one troop 13th B. C. Some headmen of the Zuka Kheyls came in on the 20th to make terms, and were given time till 9 o'clock next morning. They then came in and tried to temporize when General Maude at once sent out a large force, which took the road to Cheena. General Tytler's column burnt all the stores of hay, &c., in Bazar Valley. Not a native was seen. Two towers were blown up and some huts destroyed; and other dwellings some four miles were burnt. The column bivouacked on the night of the 21st in Nanin Gorge where water was obtainable. One man of the rear guard was badly wounded in the thigh. The telegram then runs as follows:

Next morning, just as the column was beginning to march a sharp fire was opened on them from the heights on the left. The Pass was fearfully difficult and baggage animals were blocking the way. Matters looked serious. A running fight was kept up from half past 8 to 1 P. M.; the firing being repeated and well sustained. John Powell, 1-17th Regiment, killed; he was the man shot on the previous day, and was killed by a bullet as he was being carried along in a doolie. Private Bashford of the same regiment was wounded in the thigh and has since died. A Naik of the 27th P. N. I. was severely wounded and a Sapper had his arm shattered as he was scaling a hill and four sepoys slightly wounded. The column extended itself splendidly considering the difficulties of the ground and not a single baggage animal was lost.

The country through which the column passed has never before been visited by Europeans and the effect of the punishment will be to show the Zukka Kheyls that they can easily be reached. General Tytler with the head quarters of the Second Brigade leaves to-morrow for Bosawul with the 17th Regiment. An order has been issued thanking the men for their gallantry and good conduct during the four days they were out; they really behaved grandly and the last day marched into Duka across an unknown country doing nineteen or twenty miles without once halting for food. They reached here about 11 o'clock at night and would have done another ten miles cheerfully.

The war is evidently taking the form of a guerilla warfare. If it goes on in this way, it may prove troublesome. We have said in another column that there was now a fair prospect of peace. But if peace be not speedily concluded, the real action will commence in the spring.

Criticisms we observe have commenced upon the merits of the operations already made. The *Englishman* says: "it is impossible to read the account given by our special correspondent of the attack on General Robberts' rear-guard in the Mangial Pass without feeling that the force that took that route narrowly escaped a most serious disaster. A few hours further delay, and it seems highly probable that unless much greater precautions had been taken to keep the heights clear, comparatively few of the force would have escaped the bullets of the enemy. As it is, it looks almost like a miracle that the 5th Gurkhas got through so trifling a loss, their assailants firing on them at short range from inaccessible cover." General Roberts also comes in for a fair share for his ill-advised reconnaisance of Peywar Kotal in the middst of the enemy. Our contemporary says, "however dashing a commander he may be, General Robberts is markedly deficient in the no less essential quality of prudence. Apart from the fact that the character of the Mangial tribe was notorious, special warning of their intentions had, it must be remembered, been conveyed to the General." There was, the writer continues another obvious defect in the arrangements made. "The Mangial route was an alternative one and the only object in using it at all appears to have been to ascertain its capabilities. Now the appropriate force for such a purpose as this would have been one as highly equipped as possible, and unencumbered with baggage. The other route *via* the Peywar Kotal, which was used by the main body of General Roberts' army, was known to be open, and not only was there nothing whatever to prevent the heavy baggage being despatched by this route but such was the natural course to adopt. To despatch a long line of beasts of burden and followers, without any necessity, by an unknown, in preference to a known, route was in itself a blunder; to pursue such a plan after the safety of the unknown route had become doubtful, was the extremity of rashness." Until we are furnished with full accounts we are not in a position to form a correct estimate of the character of the military operations of our army. Perhaps the letters of the London specials may throw light on the subject, but we doubt whether we will ever receive the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

## THE FLIGHT OF SHERE ALI.

THE flight of Amir Shere Ali may now be regarded as a positive fact. The news is that the Amir has fled from his capital and that his son Yakub Khan has ascended the throne. We are not aware of the circumstances under which Shere Ali has quitted his capital. Whether it is a voluntary act or the result of pressure put upon him by his advisers, whether it has proceeded from the consciousness of his own weakness or it is due to a conspiracy against him, whether Yakub's party is now in the ascendant or Shere Ali's retirement is a mere feint, are questions, which we are not in a position to affirm one way or another in the absence of authenticated facts. It may be that the Amir's resolution is the result of a combination of all the circumstances we have mentioned. One thing is, however, clear. The Amir has shared the fate of the man between two stools. He had two formidable rivals courting his friendship, England, an old friend, and Russia an old foe and a new applicant for favour. The Amir, be it remembered, owes nothing to the British Government for his accession to the throne of Kabul. As Sir Henry Rawlinson in his article on Affghansthan in the *Nineteenth Century* says, the origin of the Amir's ill-feeling to the British Government dates from the time of his accession, and was due to the refusal of the Government of India, then under the direction of Lord Lawrence, to give him its moral support in his struggle to assert his authority against the pretenders to his Throne. His nomination to be heir-apparent had been duly notified to Calcutta by his father, Dost Mahomed, and had been acknowledged by the Indian Government; and when he reported his accession to power, in 1863, he expressed his intention of "following the laudable example of his father in maintaining the strong ties of amity and

friendship subsisting between the British Government and the Affghan State." It is certain, Sir Henry Rawlinson thinks, that a courteous and cordial response to this communication would have greatly strengthened his position, which at that time was far from secure. But for six months his letter remained unacknowledged, and when at length an answer was vouchsafed "it was couched in the coldest terms of official formalism." Again, having established his power in 1864, he made a direct proposal for a new treaty of friendship with the British Government, but, in reply, was merely told that the old treaty of 1855 was still in force, and was sufficient to meet the requirements of the occasion. At a later date, after suffering some reverses, his advances were again repelled, and his two rebellious brothers were recognized by us as the *de facto* rulers of Kabul and Candahar, "in virtue of their conquest of those places, but in utter disregard of Dost Mahomed's wishes "as to the transmission of his power." Sir Henry Rawlinson has no hesitation in calling this the crucial period of our relations with Shere Ali, and in asserting that "the slights which he then received at our hands, acting on a naturally suspicious disposition, gave rise to the deep-seated feelings of mistrust which, in spite of conciliation, in spite of repeated acts of generosity on our part, have ever since marked his intercourse with his British allies." He was somewhat reconciled by the friendly and conciliatory attitude of Lord Mayo at Umballa in 1869, but his Lordship was "directed to discourage any possible expectation of our armed intervention in Shere Ali's favour," and the Amir was, on the whole, disappointed. When Khiva fell, the Amir was alarmed, and His Highness appealed to our Government. Sir Henry Rawlinson says: "The negotiations, which ensued were troublesome and tedious, the envoy seeking by every means in his power to commit us to a direct written engagement to protect Affghanisthan from Russian aggression, while the new Viceroy, Lord Northbrook, being resolved, under instructions from home, to preserve full liberty of action, maintained that the Amir's alarm was premature, that his demands as to the nature and extent of the assistance to be rendered by us were extravagant, and that, in fact, the whole course of policy which he desired to initiate was calculated to provoke rather than avert a crisis." Thus the Amir was repeatedly disappointed. His Highness then considered it to be his interest to make an alliance with Russia. He admitted a Russian Mission, received presents from the Czar, and it is said even entered into a treaty of alliance with Russia, but what is the result? He has been deserted at the last moment. Russia, if we are to judge the state of public opinion in that country from its local press, was at first very warm in her friendship for the Amir. But a change came over the spirit of her dream in consequence of the firm attitude of England. She has now changed front, withdrawn her mission, and left the Amir to his ignoble fate. Our countrymen will mark the contrast between the policy of England and Russia in their relations with Affghansthan. The course of England, though not perfectly straightforward, has not been tainted with that black treachery, which marks the conduct of Russia. From the beginning British statesmen have been playing at the worst a deep game. They would not pledge support to the Amir, but would trust to the chapter of accidents. In the war of succession they remained perfectly neutral, and said in effect that they would recognize might to be the right. Whoever might succeed would receive British friendship and aid. This was tantamount to holding out a premium to force and violence. Were it not for this immoral attitude of the British Indian Government, we call it immoral because our Government was under a treaty with Dost Mahomed, and was therefore morally bound to respect his dying wishes, we doubt whether Affghansthan would have been desolated by such a barbarous and bloody fratricidal war. But our Government did not choose to take any part in the war of succession, and so Shere Ali had not the benefit of the friendship of the British Government, which had been promised by the treaty with his father. Then after regaining his throne ShereAli had repeatedly sought forsubstantial stipulations with our Government for protection and friendship, but our statesmen would not commit themselves in any way. They made liberal promises, but would not reduce them to practice. Thus the game of the British Government was one of deep diplomacy. The Amir could not make out whether it was sincere or earnest. After long negociations the Amir at last perceived that the British Government was not disposed to give him substantial protection. In an ethical point of view the conduct of our Government was by no means frank. But the action of Russia has been openly perfidious. The Amir would not have assuredly shewn such marked unfriendliness to our Government, if he had not been secretly encouraged by Russia. And that Russia seemed to be in earnest was apparent from the part she had taken; she deputed a Mission toKabul for the purpose of effecting an alliance with the Amir. But when the hour of trial came Russia made a clean bolt, and left the Amir in the lurch. This conduct of Russia is certainly far more reprehensible than that of England. If England was selfish and insincere, Russia has been mean and treacherous. As a contemporary says, "if Shere Ali was inclined to see in the qualified friendship of England a taint of selfishness, he must, ere this, have come to the conclusion that, as compared with the unqualified treachery and cowardice of Russia, that friendship was generosity itself. Such at least must be his conclusion, if Russia is not dissembling in Kabul the candour with which in Europe she has announced her abandonment of the Affghan cause." The conduct of Russia in 1878 is of a piece with the course she took in 1838 in ignoring the treaty made on her behalf by the Italian Vichovich. The authority of that ambassador was entirely ignored, and the poor Italian was so much affected that he blew out his brains. What will be the moral effect of the fate of the Amir upon the Asiatic mind? The nations of Asia see two first class powers of Europe in a far from honorable position in dealing with an Asiatic Prince. The insincerity of England was not the less evident because it proceeded from a not altogether unnatural feeling of selfishness. It might be urged that every nation is bound to look to its own interests first, and that in diplomacy hypocrisy is a necessary element. But while admitting that in international relations each nation ought to secure its own interests, we are not prepared to agree with those who hold that in diplomacy straightforwardness is not a necessary element. If the British Government was not disposed to guarantee the Amir protection from Russian arms, why did it not say so plainly? Why did it tantalize the Amir with professions of friendship? But perfect frankness, it would seem, would not have been convenient. Be that as it might, it cannot be just to turn round and charge the Amir with ingratitude. Lord Lytton in his address to the troops of the Native Princes at Lahore said:

"You all know that the Amir of Cabul, forgetting the many favors, and misunderstanding the long forbearance of the British Government, has now presumed to defy its power, and affront its peaceful Envoy. This insult has already been punished. The Fort of Ali Musjid, where the Amir's authorities were instructed by him to repel with threats our messengers of peace, swiftly yielded to the approach of our brave soldiers, and is now in their possession. Two armies of the Amir have already been completely defeated; and more than 40 of his guns are captured. The British Government has never been an ungenerous foe. But justice must precede generosity. The Government of this great Empire would be unworthy of the conspicuous loyalty of its numerous subjects and noble allies, were it unable or unwilling to punish unprovoked insult, or effectually protect from every foreign menace the peace it has established, and the prosperity it is endeavouring to promote, within its own borders."

While we rejoice at the triumph of our arms, we cannot, having due regard to the facts of the case, endorse the charge of ingratitude against the Amir. We pity him. If he had been wise, he should not have exchanged the cold friendship of England for the open treachery of Russia. But could he, poor man, foresee this? How could he know that a Power, which lately drew the sword against Turkey in the name of humanity and righteousness, would prove so perfidious, so lost to all sense of honor and truth, so dark and dishonest. Our countrymen will see in this conduct of Russia in Asia her true national character. They will see that it would be a calamity, if by any freak of fortune Russia should ever wield supremacy over them, that England with all her faults is far more honorable and reasonable than Russia, that if the Amir has lost his throne, it is because England did not pledge her word to him.

All is over with Amir Shere Ali. Yakub now reigns in Kabul in his stead. What will he do? Will he carry on the war or make peace? Already intelligence has been received to the effect that he has deputed some of his Sirdars to Sir Sam Browne to confer with him for peace. This is a matter of congratulation. It is not our interest that the war should be protracted. Yakub, though not originally friendly to us, can not forget the generous part which our Government played for his release, when he was confined by his infuriated father. Lord Northbrook's letter to Shere Ali on this subject gave him much umbrage at the time, but it ought to convince Yakub of the generosity of our Government towards him personally. He must also have been by this time convinced of the power and resources of England. He is a strong man, and if he has taken the reins of Government in his own hands, he will doubtless be able to rule his people successfully. With him on the throne our Government may also be sure of its footing inAffghansthan, for if he be supported by ourGovernment, he will for his own sake support it in his own country. The prospects of a peaceful solution of the Affghan difficulty are thus brightening up, and we hope it will be our privilege to record it at no distant date.

## BENGAL IN 1877-78.

THE last administration report of Bengal is a dry narrative of facts. It has been, says the Lieutenant Governor, drawn up in accordance with the orders of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, which prescribe the form which it should take and the mode of treatment which the various subjects should receive. These orders are, however, not new. They were laid down some years ago. "Of late years," Sir Ashley Eden remarks," there has been some tendency to depart, from these instructions, and to give the report a more or less discursive character. It is understood that what the local Government is really required to furnish is a concise record of the realized administrative facts of the year, mainly for purposes of official reference. Such a record is obviously not intended to be an argumentative vindication of the policy of Government, or to be made a vehicle for the speculative discussion of questions which have no immediate bearing upon the actual occurrences of the year under report. Such discussions are apt to raise hopes which may never be fulfilled, and are not unfrequently quoted as pledges of a policy which Government may at a future time find itself unable to carry out." There is much truth in these remarks, but the public would undoubtedly prefer an exposition of the principles of the proceedings of Government to a bare narrative of facts. In this country there is so little opportunity for the Government to explain its motives and principles that any such opportunity, whenever it does present itself, should not be thrown away. The age has advanced in India; the people are not now content with the mere external manifestations of the mind of the Government; they wish to have as much insight into its internal working as possible, and hence the cry for publicity. The Government has also adapted itself to the changed cast of the public mind. There is now more publicity than we had twenty years ago. But we want something more than the publication of a bare narrative of events. Above all, we should like to know the inmost thoughts of our rulers, if they would only condescend to give them out. In England the Parliamentary system compels the members of the Government to disclose the motives of their actions, the principles of their policies, the grounds of their conclusions, while the healthy influence, which the electors exercise upon their representatives,

oblige them to render to their constituents an annual rendering of their stewardship, but these political and social forces are absent in India. The system of Government in India is different, but it is in the power of our rulers to popularize the administration if they wish, and they can do this by taking the public into their confidence. If our governors, however, close their lips they cannot take the public into their confidence. In India, the more the rulers and the ruled know each other's sentiments and feelings, the better will they understand each other, and the more readily will they appreciate and sympathize with each other. On these grounds we regret that Sir Ashley Eden has made his second report a drier narrative of facts than his first. None could have more ably enunciated the principles of his measures or indicated more accurately the requirements of the provinces under his control than Sir Ashley, and we consider it a public misfortune that he has thrown away the opportunity. It is true that the enunciation of opinions is sometimes inconvenient, but no one has greater courage of convictions than the present head of the Bengal Government. The Governor of the land ought not to keep himself aloof from the people over whom he is placed, but he practically does so when he shuts his mouth, lest he should commit himself.

As a record of facts the report before us is not devoid of interest. We are of course more or less acquainted with those facts, but it is a great advantage to have a clear and concise summary of them, which may be seen in one view whenever necessary. "Comparatively few administrative changes," says the Lieutenant Governor, "took place during the year under review. The increase of work and responsibility thrown upon the local Government by the readjustment of its financial relations with the Government of India, and the extension of the system of provincial finance, rendered necessary an increase in the Secretariat staff. The Political Agency of Hill Tipperah was abolished, the Magistrate of the British district of Tipperah being appointed ex-officio Political Agent. The younger brother of the Maharajah of Durbhanga was appointed an Assistant Magistrate and Collector on probation. In pursuance of a scheme for the reorganization of Marine affairs, which had been under the consideration of the Government of India for some years, the management of the Dockyard was withdrawn from the local Government, and certain duties hitherto discharged by the Master Attendant were transferred to a Superintendent of Marine, whose jurisdiction extends to the whole of the Bay of Bengal and the eastern coast of the peninsula. An important reform was effected by withdrawing the control of the provincial medical work from the hands of the Surgeon-General of Indian Medical Department and appointing a separate Surgeon General for Bengal. At the same time the Inspector-General of Jails and the Sanitary Commissioner were appointed ex-officio Inspectors of Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Lower Provinces. The political charge of the Bengal Government is comparatively unimportant. There are few such independent or tributary native states in Bengal Proper as are to be seen in the North Western Provinces, the Punjab, Bombay, and Madras. There are only a few tributary states under the Government of Bengal. During the year the tranquility in those states was undisturbed. Last year the Lieutenant-Governor had the satisfaction of restoring to the direct care of the Maharaja of Mohurbhunj the pergunnah of Bamunghatty, which had, since the troubles of 1866, been under the management of the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom. With regard to internal administration the Permanent Settlement of the land revenue has greatly simplified the work of settlement. But considerable work is done in the shape of land survey. Seven professional parties were employed on surveys in different parts of the Lower Provinces. Two of these were engaged in a cadastral survey of the lands irrigable from the Sone Canals in Behar. Although the extreme smallness of the fields rendered the operations slow and costly, 712 square miles were surveyed by the two parties at a cost of 7 annas 1 pie per acre. Another party was employed on a similar survey of the Government estate of Khoorda, in Orissa. Here however, owing to certain special difficulties, the outturn of work was only 133 square miles, while the cost rose to 14 annas 9 pies per acre. This class of survey has been shown to be quite unsuited to such a wild and half cultivated country. The professional survey of dearah or fluvial lands in the districts of Furreedpore and Backergung was completed, with an outturn of 952 square miles, surveyed at a cost of Rs. 61,201. Arrangements have been made for the conduct of dearah surveys in future by a non-professional party working under the supervision of the Board of Revenue. Professional surveys were also in progress on two wards' estates in Chota Nagpore, the cost of the work being borne by the estates themselves. Non-professional surveys under the control of the Board of Revenue were carried on in connection with the professional surveys in Monipore and Khoorda. Some misunderstandings between the professional Survey Department and the Board of Revenue attracted the notice of Government during the year, and steps are being taken to define the relation of these two authorities in the matter of revenue surveys. Notwithstanding the permanent settlement, there is a large number of khas estates in the hands of Government and also a considerable portion of the province under temporary settlement. During the year, there were 733 settlements effected during the year, yielding a net increase of revenue of Rs. 43,224, while 1187 settlements involving a revenue of Rs. 9,77,083, were pending at its close. Among these the most important were the noabad settlements in Chittagong, the settlement of the Government estate of Khoorda in Orissa, and the operations carried on in the Western Dooars, the Darjeeling Terai, and the temporarily settled estates of Majnamutha and Jellamutha in Midnapore." The course of legislation in Bengal under Sir Ashley Eden does not, we are glad to say, show that feverish excitement, which is to be seen elsewhere. The reader is aware that the year 1877 was fraught with additional taxation in Bengal in the shape of cesses. The public works cess was passed in the beginning of the year, but the irrigation cess has been abandoned. The Irrigation Bill, we are glad to read in the report, will not be proceeded with for the present as it is probable that the voluntary system of water leases will in time bring in as large a return on the State outlay as can be expected under any system. With regard to the Police the Lieutenant Governor remarks that considerable reductions and changes in distribution were undertaken by the Inspector-General, and a yearly saving of Rs. 1,65,048 was effected without affecting the real efficiency of the force. The working of the Village Chowkidari Act was generally successful, and it is clear that where the local officers exert themselves to control the proceedings of the punchayets a considerable improvement on the old system may be effected under that Act. The conduct of the police was fair, and if there were here and there isolated instances of gross misconduct there were also cases of conspicuously good service. Of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors more than 93 per cent., of the head constables 85 per cent., and of the constable 37 per cent., can read and write, and a large number of men are under instruction. The Lieutenant-Governor in directly admits that the superior officers of Police do not exercise proper supervision over their subordinates. His Honor says: "The orders of Government have repeatedly urged upon the superior officers the necessity for constant personal supervision of the proceedings of the police, especially in the outlying stations; and there is reason to believe that increased attention is now being paid to the important duty of inspection by District Superintendents." The number of persons in confinement was largely diminished during the year. On the 1st January there were only 21,266 in prison: on 31st December there were only 18,153, the lowest number attained since 1872. This was chiefly due to the effect of the orders regarding the wholesale imprisonment of persons suspected of bad livelihood by the police, and in a smaller degree to the generally favorable harvest and the high prices of agricultural produce. The jail population, which had risen steadily from the beginning of the year, decreased as steadily from the issue of those orders till the close of the period. The number of releases was nearly the same as in 1876. This simple statement speaks volumes as to the oppressions which used to be committed in the name of law. Respecting municipal administration the Lieutenant Governor dismisses the Calcutta Municipality with these words: "The year 1877 was the first working year under the new system, and it is hoped that some progress in sanitary improvement was made; but the Municipality has not succeeded in maintaining an efficient control over its financial affairs, while the elective system has failed to secure for the town the services of the best class of either native or European representatives." In the Mofusil the system of representation by election is in force in only three towns, namely Burdwan, Serampore, and Krishnaghur. We are not told how the elective system has been working in these towns. The Lieutenant Governor makes the following remarks on the economic condition of the people during the past year:

"The harvests of the year were on the whole good, but very high prices prevailed owing to the large quantity of grain exported to the famine-stricken provinces of Madras and Bombay. The rise in prices was a source of gain to the cultivators and to those who shared in their profits, but caused some distress among people dependent on small fixed incomes, or on charity, and possibly among day-labourers in places where the unusual amount of export did not lead to an additional demand for labour. While, therefore the year was one of great prosperity for some classes, there were others which suffered considerably."

The sea-borne trade shows an increase under imports and exports of merchandise and treasure in the foreign as well as in the coasting trade, except in the case of exports of treasure to foreign ports, in which there was a decrease of 56 per cent. The total expenditure on public works in Bengal amounted to Rs. 1,00,69,303. Excluding Irrigation and Guaranteed Railways, the expenditure on imperial works amounted to Rs. 4,52,570 of which Rs. 42,662 were spent on military works and Rs. 4,09,908 on civil buildings. The total outlay on district roads amounted to Rs. 31,65,743, of which Rs. 74,977, or less than 2½ per cent. were expended by officers of the Public Works Department. Measures have also been taken to ensure that the district road committees shall expend a fair proportion of their funds on village communications, as the improvement of village roads brings home to the people the benefits which they derive from the levy of the road cess. Two new irrigation schemes of a somewhat novel financial character were introduced during the year; one for the Sarun district on the basis of a local guarantee of the interest on the capital outlay; the other in Hooghly, on the basis of local contributions to the capital amount. The former consists of a canal by which water from the Gunduk will be thrown into the principal water-courses of the district, from whence it will be distributed at the cost of the people themselves for irrigation and manufacturing purposes. The estimated cost is five lakhs, 4½ per cent. on which has been guaranteed by a few of the principal planters and zemindars, the Government remaining responsible for the cost of maintenance and recouping itself from the proceeds of the sale of all surplus water for irrigation, the guarantors having priority of right to a supply. Some progress was made with some of the supply cuts during the year, and it is hoped that the works will be finished before the rains of 1879. The Hooghly scheme is estimated to cost five lakhs of which amount a lakh has already been promised by the zemindars. Its primary object is the supply of good drinking-water to the numerous villages lying along the old deserted spill channels of the Damooda, but there will be considerable surplus for use in irrigation. An important project was submitted to the Government of India during the year for a navigable canal to connect the existing tidal canal in Hidgellee with the estuary of the Brahminee and the Cuttack system of canals. Its cost will be about 35 lakhs and it will form part of a larger scheme for connecting the whole of the tidal channels of Orissa, the Chilka lake, and the Gunjam district of the Madras presidency with Calcutta. The total length of navigation from

the Hooghly to Ganjam will be 400 miles. The cost is roughly estimated at 75 lakhs, 20 lakhs of which have already been spent on the Hidgellee canal; and until such a canal is constructed Orissa, the Lieutenant Governor thinks, will never be safe from such calamities as that of 1866. Of State Railways in Bengal the Northern Bengal State Railway, which runs with only a break at the crossing of the Ganges from Poradah on the Eastern Bengal Railway to Julpigoree, was formally opened in January 1878. An extension from Julpigoree to Silligoree, near the foot of the Darjeeling hills, was opened for goods traffic in June 1878. The railway serves some of the richest districts in Bengal, and is expected to carry a heavy traffic in tobacco, grain, seeds, jute, and tea. The Tirhoot Railway starts from the Barh station of the East India Railway, with a short line to the south bank of the Ganges. The river is crossed by a steam ferry, and the line is continued on the north bank, a distance of 52 miles to Mozufferpore with a shorter branch of 23 miles to Durbhunga. The Nulhattee, Railway runs for 27¼ miles from the station of Nulhattee on the East Indian Railway, to Azimgunge on the Bhagirathee, nearly opposite to Moorshedabad. The Calcutta and South-Eastern Railway was constructed under Government guarantee to serve the auxiliary port of Canning on the Mutlah river. The general management of the State Railways is said to have been thoroughly successful during the year.

The above is a brief summary of the salient points of the report. It shows that the attention of the Bengal Government is chiefly confined to details. But the work of administration has become harder, because it requires more close and minute supervision. The machine is, however, working fairly and smoothly. The foreman is active and argus-eyed. There is not a point, which he does not scrutinize personally, and if a screw be loose any where, he is ready to attend to it at once. The machine went out of joints in some parts in the hands of some of his predecesors, but by two years' incessant and careful working he has put them in order. We wish him every success in his arduous labours.

## THE TROOPS OF THE NATIVE STATES.

LORD LYTTON in addressing the troops of the Native Chiefs assembled at Lahore for active service for the Affghan war said: "From the South as from the North, from the East as from the West, they have placed unsolicited, at the disposal of its Government, their troops, their revenues, their personal co-operation. Special distinctions would be out of place in this recognition of a loyalty so universally distinguished." A higher compliment could not be paid to the Native Princes than what fell from the lips of His Excellency the Viceroy at Lahore. Place side by side the words written by the *Times* on the subject of the armies of the Native States. The Thunderer wrote that India causes anxiety on account of the military strength of the Native Chiefs. How different is the opinion of the responsible ruler of India? The question is how can the vast body of men employed in the Native States as soldiers be utilized to the advantage of their own territories and of the Paramount Power. This question has been discussed in a rather wild pamphlet by a native gentleman of Bombay. This pamphlet is entitled the "Forces of the Native States of India considered in relation to the defence of the Indian Empire." Nothing could be better than the spirit, which pervades the pamphlet, but the reasoning of the writer is wild, illogical, and unpractical. His proposals are as follows:

(1)—A small portion of the army should be reserved by the State for its police and domestic purposes, and all such Sirdars, &c., connected with the army whose condition would not permit of joining the Imperial column, should be utilized by the chief in his local service, or in any other feasible manner, as far as possible.

(2)—The rest of the men, officers Sirdars, &c., should be placed at the disposal of the British Government. Sirdars of high position, who would wish to be trained for actve military service, and all others so inclined, should be specially encouraged and vested with authority in the detached imperial companies, in such numbers as may be compatible with other conditions.

(3)The reorganization and equipment of the force to rest with the British Commander-in-Chief, who should be at liberty to employ means to render the army as serviceable as the British army.

(4)—Funds should be provided by the Native State for the maintenance of its contributed number, generally not exceeding the cost incurred by it at home.

(5)—Every Native State furnishing the force should have a guiding military council, of which the President may be the Minister of the State, the Vice-President the British Resident, and the Members to be composed of a select number of intelligent Sirdars and Officers of the State on the one side, and the British Divisional Military Officers on the other.

(6)—The proportion of Native Officers to the British ones to be fixed by this Committee, according to the general principles agreed upon by the State and the British Government.

(7)—It would be the interest of the State to see that the Native Sirdars and Officers contributed along with the army are capable of taking an active part in the direction of the force, and that they progress in their experience of military duties as much as their British brethren.

(8) Any decisions with reference to the personale of the higher ranks of the army, or the dismissal of large batches of men belonging to the original strength supplied by a Native State, or the introduction of large numbers of new men, to be authorized by the Military Council who would consider it their special interest in assisting the British commanders in the reform of the force surrendered for individual and general purposes of the States and the country at large.

(9)—The employment and location of the army from time to time to rest on the decision of the paramount power, and any extraordinary charges resulting from the termination of any active service, in which it may have been engaged, to be partly borne by the paramount power, and partly by the contributory State, or in proportion to the numbers engaged on the part of the feudatories and the British.

The writer has supported his proposals with elaborate arguments, but for our part we do not think that it will be practicable to convert the armies of the Native States into a wing of the imperial force. We have shewn in previous articles on the subject that the troops of the Native Chiefs are chiefly employed for Police and other domestic purposes. If they are transferred to the imperial army, the Native States must employ other men to do the work, and this means additional expenditure of money. Then again if the organization and equipment of the force are to rest with the British Commander-in-Chief, the Native Princes cannot call the troops their own. They will be practically under the orders of the British Government. A Military Council will be in reality of no consequence, for if the troops are to be under the orders of the British Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency must have supreme control. Further, if the employment and location of the armies of the Native States are to be under the direction of the British Government, the loyalty of the Native Chiefs to the Paramount Power cannot be considered spontaneous. The result will be that the British Indian army will be strengthened at the expense of the Native States. This cannot be fair or equitable. We doubt whether the Native Princes will agree to such an arrangement.

The writer asks, "I would put to our worthy native politicians who so deservedly rule our Native States, whether it is not now our strongest, our most righteous interest to reckon the British one of ourselves, to treat it as a power indispensably required, to listen to our individual and general grievances, to prevent us from disagreeing with, or feeling jealous of, each other, to allow us confidently to pursue our path of prosperity and glory without feeling anxious as to our very primary security, and to enable us in aiding in the construction of a just and powerful Empire which may prove the emancipation of the East, yet so much loaded with infinite miseries and poverty?" The answer, as he justly says, will be in the affirmative. But stretch the logic a little further, and you will have to admit that on abstract grounds it will be much better to absorb the Native States into the British Indian Empire. Is the writer prepared to go to that length? We fear not The wildness of the writer's ideas may be perceived from the following extract. He says: "On the same principle of universal safety and good, or the safety and good of the largest numbers of the Indian population, I would also venture to advocate that the administration of some of the most Anglicised portions of the Indian Empire, such as the Punjab, Sinde, Bombay, Madras, or Calcutta, could gradually be vested hereditarily in English Princes, or those of their nobles who may have rendered long and valuable services to this country. Portions of the country may also be selected for administration purely by trained representatives of the public. Some tracts may be conferred on the worthiest nobility of the country who may be sighing for a sovereignty. The Indian Empire would thus be constituted of all the best elements of rule; though differing from each other, they would form checks against each other, while all would be apt to be unified when the general interests of the whole Empire were concerned. These last could be efficiently represented in a great Imperial Council established in the country itself, where every State and Province would be represented." We admire the patriotism of the writer. He would make a free gift of Indian provinces and districts to British Princes and peers, and this measure he thinks will make *India strong and loyal. This is an original* idea. Unfortunately the writer has not given his name; if he had done so he might have perhaps secured something more substantial than a passing notoriety.

## THE RAJPUTANA STATES.

THE most prominent feature in the report of Major Bradford, the Political Agent, Rajputana States, for 1877-78, is the record of the loyalty of the chiefs. He writes: "Last year's Report opened with a testimony to the loyalty of the Chiefs of Rajpootana on the occasion of Her Majesty's assumption of the Imperial title. This year it is a pleasing duty to record a fresh and conspicuous proof of their attachment to the British Crown as evinced in the prompt and spontaneous offers of assistance to Government in its military preparations which poured in from all parts of Rajpootana so soon as the formation of an Indian Contingent became known. Nor should I omit to mention the readiness with which the Chiefs whose States were affected by the recent determination of Government to abolish the inland customs line came forward to assist by friendly negotiations the important objects which this resolve is intended to secure." Nothing could be more gratifying than this spontaneous testimony of the Political Agent.

The drought of last year extended to Rajputana. We read that the kharif and grass crops were almost entirely burnt up by the extraordinary heat of the weather. Prices rose considerably, and from the pastoral tracts of Rajputana the people were compelled to emigrate to save a portion of their starving cattle. Rain fell again in October and enabled the rabi sowings to take place. These late showers were most beneficial to the people of Meywar and the Harowtee States, and placed them beyond actual want, but in the rest of Rajputana the widespread loss of food produce and forage told severely upon the condition of the people. With the advice of the Political Officers the several Durbars at once adopted petty relief measures, such as the repairing of bunds, roads, well, &c., to which the strong and able-bodied flocked, while the weak needy were fed in poor-houses and relief camps. Many Thakoors also organized relief works for their dependants; and remissions of revenue were made to the cultivators. It was hoped that the gathering in of the rabi harvest would bring relief to the country, but the crops failed more or less everywhere. Prices continued high, and the stress of the famine now began to be felt, especially in the North-Eastern States. In South-Western Rajputana the Railway earthworks afforded considerable relief to the people. Complaints came from the British districts on the north-east border of Rajputana that the subjects of the Native States were flocking in great numbers in search of food and work. But early measures had been taken on the increase of distress by the Durbars of Jeypore, Ulwur, Kerowlee, and Dholepoor to provide work

and to open relief camps for their destitute subjects, and, although emigration could not altogether be prevented, it was found on enquiry that these complaints were to some extent exaggerated; they were moreover reciprocal, for the Durbars stated that British subjects, sought their territories for food. With the returning monsoon season of 1878 hope however revived.

Major Bradford's remarks on the management of different states are interesting. With regard to Meywar he says, "I can endorse much that Lieutenant-Colonel Impey and Major Cadell have written regarding the Maharana's force of character and determination to rule well and wisely. My only fear is lest in his eagerness to introduce the reforms which he knows to be necessary he may not take sufficiently into account the many vested interests and prejudices, which in a conservative country like Meywar can only be dealt with and overcome by degrees and by the exercise of much forbearance and caution. Unless the Maharana can enlist on his side the sympathies of the nobles and influential classes his attempts at reform will be looked upon with coldness, and may not improbably lead to an estrangement between him and them similar to that to which so many of the troubles of past days were attributable." He thus refers to the dispute of the Maharana with the Ex-Gossain of Nathdwara, whose case we noticed before. Major Bradford says: "The quiet of domestic affairs has been troubled by the defiant attitude assumed by the Ex-Gossain of Nathdwara: the recent refusal of Government to entertain the petitions of his partisans will doubtless have the effect of quieting the agitation. The Durbar was at one time anxious that the Ex-Gossain should either be surrendered to its authority or ordered to reside at a fixed place in British territory. This request was for obvious reasons inadmissible." But so far as we have seen the facts of the case the Ex-Gossain has justice on his side, and we are sorry that Major Bradford has endorsed the opinion of his predecessor upon it. Of Jeypore the Political Agent writes: "The consequences of the drought were not much felt in Jeypore territory until shortly before the harvesting of the "rabi" crop when no doubt a certain amount of distress showed itself, though the reports of its severity which reached me were found on careful enquiry to have been much exaggerated. The Maharaja with his usual humanity has all through taken every precaution to provide work for those in need. The expenditure consequently exceeded to about one-third." The past year was a disastrous one for Marwar. The rain, though not much below the average in quantity, fell mostly in the last part of the season, and the autumn crop, on which the country mainly depends, dried up by the subsequent heat, yielded but one-fourth of the usual out-turn. The spring crop fared still worse, and throughout the State not more than one-fifth of the normal produce was secured The difficulties thus caused were aggravated by an unusually severe grass famine. The want of pasturage induced numbers of Marwar subjects, estimated at more than 80,000 souls, to emigrate towards Guzerat and Malwa, where in similar seasons of scarcity fodder for cattle had always been procurable. Last year, however, even Malwa was not exempt from a similar visitation, and it is estimated that fully three-fourths of the 200,000 head of cattle driven forth from Marwar have perished. But the relief measure, says Major Bradford, were carried out efficiently. The Political Agent speaks highly of the good sense and forethought of the Maharaja as displayed in the measures adopted by him to prevent an undue rise in prices throughout Marwar. Major Bradford does not, however, concur in this opinion. With regard to the smaller states Major Bradford says, the Boondee Chief is represented as more disposed than formerly to listen to advice, but the administration stands much in need of reform—"there are no Courts; education is neglected; the streets of the city are ill-paved and dirty; there is no attempt at sanitation or drainage, and things in general are to our views in a sad state." To this catalogue of shortcomings may be added the absence of an efficient Police. Referring to Tonk, Major Bradford writes: "I regret that I cannot report favorably on the Tonk Administration. The death of Khan Jehan Khan was a great misfortune, and must materially retard the reforms so much needed in this State. The debts stands, I fear, at a much higher figure than that given by the Political Agent. A careful comparison of the accounts furnished from time to time to this Office since the Nawab's succession convinces me that the liabilities cannot be estimated at much less than 12 lakhs of rupees. The Nawab is, I am aware, anxious for our assistance in his difficulties, but no formal proposal has as yet reached me, nor should I feel justified in submitting any scheme for the consideration of Government, unless His Highness is prepared to place himself unreservedly in our hands." In Bickaneer, the Council is said to be a positive hindrance to good government, and the mutual jealousies of its members are said to be "the chief cause of the general mismanagement which prevails." Major Bradford remarks: "Although in so isolated a country with little opportunity for correcting defects of administration by comparison with better governed States we cannot expect a very high standard of excellence, the conviction is reluctantly forced upon me that the whole administration is radically bad and calls imperatively for reform, which the Maharaja is unable to introduce against the inclination of his powerful Sirdars. The termination of the ten years' settlement will be the signal for much wrangling between the Durbar and the Sirdars which cannot but be productive of further disorganization. The weak and temporizing policy of the Durbar in dealing with these Sirdars is shown in almost every instance of misgovernment that comes before me. The system of farming villages to contractors who manage them through inferior and underpaid agents, while remaining themselves at Bickaneer to gain the Maharaja's ear, and have a ready answer to complaints, is an engine of oppression which the power of imprisonment enables the contractors to work still more harshly." Such is the substance of the report of Political Agents on the administration of the Rajpootana States during 1872-73. It will be seen that there is much room for improvement and that much can be effected in that direction by friendly counsel and conciliatory disposition on the part of our political officers.

## DESTRUCTION OF WILD ANIMALS AND POISONOUS SNAKES IN BRITISH INDIA.

A RESOLUTION of the Government of India on the above subject shews what ravages are committed in British India year after year by wild animals and poisonous snakes. It shows that the total number of persons killed in 1877 was 19,695 as compared with 19,273 in 1876; that the total number of cattle destroyed was 53,197 against 54,830 in the previous year; that the number of snakes destroyed was 1,27,295 against 2,12,371 in 1876; and that the number of wild animals killed was 22,851 against 23,459. Although the number of persons killed by tigers and wolves was less in 1877 than in 1876, the number of those killed last year was much less. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the decrease in the number of larger animals destroyed has been most marked; for in the year 1877 ninety-five tigers and 2,261 wolves were destroyed as compared with 135 and 4,770 respectively in the preceding year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals. Now, what is the cause of this decrease in the destruction of wild animals? We cannot but attribute it to the increased stringency of the rules regulating the use of arms. Of course it is not given to us to trace the cause and effect directly in the absence of statistics, but we believe that if the people had freer use of arms, they would have had better opportunities of killing wild beasts.

The increase of deaths from snake-bites was very great. Sixteen thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven persons were killed in the year 1877 as compared with 15,946 in the preceding year. Rewards were paid for the destruction of snakes during the past year in the provinces of Bombay, Bengal, the Punjab, and to a very small extent in the Central Provinces and Mysore; but the number of snakes for the destruction of which rewards were paid have largely decreased in all the provinces. On this subject the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces makes the following remarks:

It is impossible to consider the appaling loss of human life caused by snakes, without re-opening the question of rewards payable for their destruction, especially as an occasion for remark presents itself in the fact that the Saugor Municipality pays rewards for their destruction. Most district officers have either altogether ignored the matter or have passed it by with an expression of regret that rewards have of late years been withheld. The main reasons for their withdrawal were, firstly, that it was difficult, often impossible, to distinguish between venomous and harmless snakes; secondly, that the instinct to kill snakes was generally so strong that they would be killed whether rewards for their destruction were given or not; thirdly, that to offer rewards might lead to an increase of deaths by people incautiously poking after them; lastly, that snake-killing might become a profession, and snakes be bred for the sake of the reward granted for their destruction. It is obviously impossible to destroy all the snakes in the province; people working in the fields must of necessity be always more or less exposed to bites. The Chief Commissioner has carefully examined the district returns and the memoranda attached thereto; but he is unable to gather from them where deaths from snake-bites are more numerous; whether, specially so, in the wilder rural circles, or whether it is evenly spread over the districts, and as many deaths proportionally take place in towns as in villages and hamlets. What the Chief Commissioner would be prepared to do in his desire to decrease deaths by snake-bites would be to bear from Provincial revenues one-half of the rewards which any Municipality might (like the Saugor Municipality) pay away. if such a measure were attended by any success it could hereafter be extended.

Sir Ashley Eden in considering the practical effect of rewards for snake-bites makes the following pertinent and practical observations:

It appears that a large proportion of the snakes killed were caught and brought in by professional snake-catchers from places remote from human habitations, where they probably would never have had an opportunity of killing a human being. A careful investigation of the numerous cases of death from snake-bites would show that the majority of them occur in or near dwelling-houses. The fact that the number of females who die from snake-bites is larger than the number of males who die from the same cause, seems to show that the cases take place in the villages and homesteads and not in the open fields. The mortality from snake-bites is attributable to the mode of life of the people of this country. It is preventible by them if they are prepared to change this mode of life, but it is preventible in no other way. So long as the people allow their homes to be surrounded by rank vegetation, old bricks and rubbish, and go out into this natural abode of snakes in the night without a light, and often without any protection for their feet, so long will they be exposed to the risk of snake-bites. The reeklessness of the people in respect to the adoption of ordinary precautions against accidents of this kind is so much a part of the national character, that nothing that Government can do is likely materially to effect any substantial good.

There is much truth in the above. His Honor has directed the adoption of the following measures for the destruction of poisonous snakes:

(1) that the same reward as has hitherto been given be granted for all poisonous snakes caught within the area of any town or municipality or village in which Act VI. of 1870 is in force;

(2) that the reward be paid on the production of the snake, whether dead or alive, at the sadar station, or at the sub-divisional station; and

(3) that the reward be extended to all keraits and daboias, as well as cobras, and be paid for dead as well as living snakes, provided that the specimens can be identified.

The Lieutenant-Governor desires that Commissioners of Divisions will direct Magistrates and Collectors to call the attention of all zemindars, talookdars and farmers to the subject, and to impress on them the duty they owe to their tenantry in endeavouring to encourage the destruction of poisonous snakes in all villages belonging to them. Magistrates should carefully analyse the returns submitted to them through the police, and draw the attention of the proprietors of any village where the return shows that the mortality is large.

We think it would be better if the Police Superintendents were charged with the duty of watching the operation of the rewards. The Magistrates are overburdened with work, and

they cannot be expected to attend to this duty satisfactorily.

## THE MUNICIPAL COLLECTOR.

On SATURDAY last the Calcutta Commissioners had a field-day. The principal subject for the meeting was the appointment of a proper person for the office of Collector of municipal rates and dues. There were no less than seventeen candidates, whose names we give below :

1. Mr. R. Hammond.—Late Manager, *Statesman* and *Friend of India*.

2. Babu Ramessur Malia.

3. Babu Lallgopal Dutt,—Formerly Assistant Secretary and Librarian of the Asiatic Society.

4. Babu Rosomoy Dey,—Treasurer, Calcutta Custom House ; submits certificates from Mr. J. A. Crawford, Mr. Stainforth, Col. Bishop, Mr. Heeley, Mr. H. Balfour, Mr. Millett, Mr. Tottenham, Mr. Bignold, Mr. Cornell, late Superintendent of Stamps. Mr. C. J. Brown, Mr. J. G. Charles, Mr. Lockwood, Mr. Monro, and Mr. J. D. Maclean of the Custom House.

5. Babu Pearymohun Banerjea,—Calcutta Collectorate ; forwards testimonials from Mr. Louis Jackson, Mr. J. H. Young, Mr. Elphinstone Jackson, Mr. R. C. Raikes, Mr. Grote, Mr. G. J. Mackintosh Mr. J. Mackenzie, the Income Tax Commissioners, Mr. W. M. Souttar &c.

6. Babu Aughurnath Mookerjea,—Collector of Suburban rates and taxes ; submits extracts from Administration Reports regarding his ability and qualifications.

7. Babu Annodaprosad Mookerjea,—Late Jute Inspector and Collector, of taxes, Calcutta Municipal Office.

8. Babu Koonjobehary Dhur,—Cashier Messrs. J. Dyce Nicol and Co. and late Khazanchee in the late Royal Bank of India and Bengal Hurkaru Press ; submits certificates from Mr. H. Scott Smith, M. H. W. J. Wood, Mr. H. R. Hills Mr. J. M. Courtney Mr. Charles Stuart &c. &c.

9. Mr. O. C. Dutt.

10. Babu Suratchunder Law,—Submits certificate from Babu Obhoychurn Gooho.

11. Babu Khogendronath Mookerjea,—Treasurer, Messrs. Begg Dunlop & Co.

12. Babu Bholanath Dhur,—Merchant ; forwards certificate from Raja Degumber Mitter C. S. I.

13. Babu Padmanath Roy.

14. Babu Jogendronarain Ghose,—Late Collector. Municipal Office ; offers to undertake the duties of Collector as well as that of Treasurer and Superintendent of the Warrant Department on certain conditions.

15. Babu Benodechunder Das,—Treasurer, Municipal Office.

Besides the above there were two other candidates, Babu Dhukhinashur Malia and another native gentleman, who had submitted their applications after the expiration of the advertized date. On the recommendation of the Chairman the meeting agreed to receive the applications in order to give the candidates a fair chance of competition. Of the above-named seventeen candidates the under-mentioned six were formally proposed and seconded :

1. Babu Rossomoy Dey,—Proposed by Babu Nobinchunder Borral, seconded by Babu Premchand Borral.

2. Babu Pearymohun Banerjea,—Proposed by Babu Jodunath Ghose and seconded by Babu Juggadanund Mookerjea.

3. Mr. O. C. Dutt,—Proposed by Babu Kalinath Mitter, and seconded by Babu Nemychurn Bose.

4. Babu Suratchunder Law,—Proposed by Mr. R. Mitra, and seconded by Babu Sreenath Chunder.

5. Babu Jogendranarain Ghose,—Proposed by Babu Omorthonath Mitter and seconded by the Revd. K. M. Banerjea.

6. Babu Benodechunder Das,—Proposed by Maharaja Norendrakrishna Bahadur and seconded by Mr. F. F. Wyman.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings stated that as the rules of business did not provide for the mode of voting on occasions like the present, and as discretion had been vested in him in ruling questions of order he ruled that the names of those candidates, who might be formally proposed and seconded, should be submitted to vote, and that each Commissioner should be called upon to vote for the candidate, whom he might consider the most eligible for the post, so that no Commissioner would be asked to vote twice. This course, the Chairman observed, was in accordance with the previous practice of the Corporation, and appeared to him to be reasonable and just. The Chairman very properly did not allow any discussion upon this point of order, and his firmness at the outset had the good effect of preventing useless and irritating discussion.

The six candidates we have named above were then formally proposed and seconded. There was a debate on the merits of some of the candidates. Personal discussions are always unpleasant, but they could not be avoided on an occasion like the one under notice. A little lightning and thunder tend to clear the atmosphere. On the conclusion of the debate a Commissioner asked the Chairman to favour the meeting with an expression of his opinion on the merits of the several candidates, inasmuch as he as the chief executive would be responsible for the working of the Collectorate. Mr. Souttar gave his opinion frankly and honestly. He said that the first candidate Babu Rossomoy Dey was kazanchi of the Customs House, and appeared to be an intelligent and experienced officer, and held very good testimonials ; but his function was to receive and not to collect money. He doubted whether Babu Russomoy was a fit person to organize and work a large department like the Collectorate of the Calcutta Municipality. The second candidate, Babu Peary Mohun Banerjea, was a personal friend of his ; he had served under him and given him great satisfaction ; he was a man of much intelligence, ability and experience ; he knew Calcutta well, and if his health permitted he would make an excellent Collector. But he (Mr. Souttar) had been for the last two years advising his friend, Babu Peary Mohun, who had passed 55 years, to retire, and if he could not be expected to fulfil his present duties with his accustomed energy, much less would he be physically qualified for the more onerous duties of the Municipal Collectorate. The third candidate, Mr. O. C. Dutt, Mr. Souttar remarked, he did not know until he had joined the Municipality. He was much obliged to the Commissioners for the assistance he had derived from them, but he must confess that he set a very high value upon the intelligence, ability, knowledge and zeal which Mr. O. C. Dutt brought to bear upon his labours as a member of this Corporation. Whatever he undertook to do, he did well and thoroughly. He had, he might say, the details of the Municipal office at his fingers' ends. Allusion had been made to the circumstances under which Mr. O. C. Dutt had resigned the office of Vice-Chairman under the old regime ; he (Mr. Souttar) had carefully read the papers relating to his case, and he would not blink at any of the facts recorded by the Commission which tried him. The result of the Commission and the votes at the meeting of the late Justices was the resignation of Mr. O. C. Dutt, who very properly took that step. But Mr. Souttar did not think that his resignation could justly be considered a bar to his employment as Municipal Collector. As had been rightly pointed out there was no analogy between the functions of the Vice-Chairman and Collector ; in the one case he exercised enormous powers, in the other case he would have no legal power whatever. Then Mr. Souttar was of opinion that by resigning the office of Vice-Chairman Mr. O. C. Dutt had not forfeited the confidence of the Government or the public. He held the honorable position of Honorary Magistrate and Justice of the Peace and the Government would not certainly have maintained him in that position if he had not enjoyed its confidence. Mr. O. C. Dutt was so much the best man among the candidates before the meeting for the post of Collector that he had no hesitation in giving him his support. The fourth candidate Babu Sarath Chunder Law, Mr. Souttar said, was an excellent young man, and in time might make a good Collector, but he must now learn business. The fifth candidate Babu Bencde Chunder Das was Treasurer of the Municipality. He too, said Mr. Souttar, was an excellent young man, and did his work well. If he were called upon to certify to his qualifications, he would not hesitate to say that he has discharged his duties as Treasurer satisfactorily. But he was sorry to say that he did not consider him a fit man for the post of Collector. If he were appointed to that post, he must frankly confess that his own labours and responsibilities and those of the Vice-Chairman would seriously increase. The name of Babu Jogendranarain Ghose was not put to vote because the meeting resolved that his application was not in conformity with the terms of the advertisement inasmuch as he had applied for the joint office of Collector and Treasurer, which under a recent resolution had been separated. It was much to be regretted that Babu Jogendranarain had made this condition, for many Commissioners would have gladly voted for him as a tried officer of the Municipality, but they did not like to place themselves in an absurd and anomalous position by voting for one who wished to be both Collector and Treasurer, and who might refuse the first office, if the latter was not united with it, which could not be done owing to the recent resolution referred to above. The Commissioners would be then landed in fool's paradise, because if he declined the single office they must meet again and elect some body else. Before the votes were taken the Chairman informed the meeting that he was authorized by the Lieutenant Governor to state that if Mr. O. C. Dutt was appointed by a majority of the Commissioners His Honor would sanction the appointment. The votes were thus recorded :

*For Mr. O. C. Dutt.*

Babu Sreenath Ghose
" Rajendernath Mitra
" Nundolal Bose
" Doorgamohun Dass
Moulvi Ahmed
Babu Amritonath Mitter
" Goindokumar Dutt
" Romakant Sen
" Prannath Dutt
" Bhoobunmohun Sircar
" Nemychurn Bose
" Jogeshchunder Dutt
" Joygobind Law
Dr. Juggobundhu Bose
Babu Sittanath Dass
" Kallynath Mitter
Hon'ble Kristodas Pal
Babu Bhujendrabhusan Chatterjea
" Proonath Dutt
" Radharomon Mitter
" Jodoolal Mullick
Raja Harendrakrishna Bahadur
Mr. J. Westland C. S.
Mr. Babonean
Mr. G. Yule
Mr. W. D Bruce
Mr. D. J. Zemio
The Chairman — 28

*For Babu Suratchunder Law.*

Babu Shamachurn Sircar
" Sreenath Chunder
Mr. R. Mittra
Mr. Phipson — 4

*For Babu Benodchunder Das.*

Moulvi Abdool Lutief Khan Bahadur
Maharaja Norendrakrishna
Mr. C. J. Brookes
Mr. F. F. Wyman — 4

*For Babu Rosomoy Dey.*

Babu Premchand Burral
" Nobinchunder Burral — 2

*For Babu Pearymohan Banerjea.*

Babu Judoonath Ghose
" Juggadanund Mookerjea — 2

*Commissioners who did not vote.*

Revd. Dr. K. M. Banerjea
Babu Charoochunder Mullick
" Surendranath Banerjea
" Nobogopal Mitter
" Bhairabchunder Banerjea — 5

We congratulate the Commissioners on the result. They have done their duty honestly and manfully. Municipal finance, it is notorious, is now in a crisis ; it is true that the Town Council have managed to make the two ends meet by revising the Budget for 1879, but all their labours will be of no avail if the rates and taxes are not properly collected. At such a juncture as the Chairman very properly remarked the Municipality wanted a strong and experienced man, and we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. O. C. Dutt is that man. We only hope that drilled as he has been in the painful school of Experience he will by his conduct in his present position fully justify the confidence thus reposed in him.

## LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Chapter of the Star of India proposed for New Year's Day is postponed to the 1st February next in consequence of the demise of Princess Alice.

THE LATEST information received from Turkish Arabia is to the effect that the tribes about Nejd are now quiet and offer no opposition to the Turkish troops between Kateef and Hassa. The postal communication between Mosul and Diabeks has been re-opened.

A TELEGRAM from Ali Masjid through Jumrood dated the 27th instant states all quiet there. Iazailchi corps nearly complete. Good effects of operations against Bazar Valley apparent. Stolen property worth thousand rupees, chiefly mules and soldiers' blankets, returned by Zakkakhel on the 26th.

WE THANK Babu Peary Chand Mitter for a copy of his new Bengali work on the condition of Hindu women in ancient times. It contains biographical sketches of ancient Hindu ladies interspersed with moral reflections. We commend this book to our zenanna ladies for perusal. They will find in it much valuable information and instruction.

THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN HERALD is publishing some interesting letters from a correspondent on

the frontier. We make the following extract regarding the Amir's flight :

In my last, I think, I made some speculations with regard to the Amir's possible movements towards Turkesthan. A report now reaches me, which, if true, shows which side the wind blows; it shows, that, in my conjectures I was not very wide of the mark. Some Cabulees said that the old Amir was one day seen in locking up some gold, silver and precious stones. A Sardar asked what he meant by it; and the answer vouchsafed was this. "I intend to go to Turkesthan and settle there." "What!" answered the Sardar, "afraid of Kafr dogs?" "What can I do? My soldiers scatter like so many sheep at the approach of the enemy," replied the Amir. This report may not be reliable; but it shows, however, that even the Afghan mind is not devoid of the same suspicion, which I had expressed a week ago. It is now reported that there are only eight infantry regiments in Cabul and these men are unwilling to fight.

Again :

Some speculations are being made as to whether the Amir's retreat from Jellalabad is real or feigned. There are those who believe that he has withdrawn only for the time being with the intention of returning through some unknown pass to the British rear to entrap the advancing soldiers. The speculators, however, think, that a small force efficiently managed can repel such attacks. Orders have been issued to Sir Sam Browne to advance to Jellalabad at once. It will be gratifying to your readers to hear that the Sardars and the Amir's Officials in that city have tendered submission and service.

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THE LAST number of the *Nineteenth Century* contains the following statement of Sir Erskine Perry regarding the appointment of natives of India to the Civil Service :

"Many obstacles have hitherto prevailed, chiefly arising out of the vested interests of a close civil Service, to prevent full operation being given to a policy so solemnly laid down [that the natives shall have a fair share of the prizes of the service] But it is no breach of official propriety to announce that Lord Cranbrook has earnestly taken up the proposals of the present Viceroy, to clear away the difficulties which have hitherto intervened, and has sent out a despatch to India which, it may be fairly anticipated, will meet the aspirations of educated natives and will greatly strengthen the foundations of the British Government in the East."

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MR. PHILLIP of the Bengal Civil Service has published a pamphlet on the Madras Famine, entitled "Blacker Pamphlet," in contradistinction to the "Black Pamphlet" on the Bengal Famine of 1874. The writer advocates the introduction of a Permanent Settlement of the land revenue into Madras. We give his own words below :

We have attempted to trace the poverty of the Madras ryot to the abuse of the ryotwari system and to show the advantages of a permanent settlement. We venture to think that conclusive proof has been given of the fact that the administration of the land revenue has been a dismal failure, and that the ryots of the Madras Presidency have been crushed by grievous over-assessment. Our facts and figures are taken from Government books, reports, and publications. We believe we have indulged in fair criticism; personal invective we have carefully abstained from. We blame no individual, but make a scape-goat of that abstraction called Government. We *bona fide* believe our statements to be strictly true; and for this reason we considered it better not to adopt any *nom de plume*. Some of our statements may be inaccurate; our picture may be overdrawn; we may in some instances have attributed effects to the wrong causes. We hope this may be so. All we wish is to elicit criticism.

We hope this question will receive due consideration from the Famine Commission.

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THE *Statesman* publishes a letter from Hassan, Mysore, from which we make the following extract :

Mr. L. Bowring, one of the former rulers in Mysore, wisely thought that as the future administrator of the country would be our young Rajah, the native element should be more prominent than heretofore. To meet these ends, he selected from among the Amildars, Head Sheristadars etc., men of sound knowledge in civil criminal, and revenue matters, and appointed them Assistant Commissioners. This being a native State, many even of the upper classes had, formerly, no taste for English; and many of those chosen by Mr. Bowring, for superior service were, therefore, strangers to that language. Knowing their ability to dispense justice, Mr. Bowring invested them with magisterial powers, without calling upon them to undergo any examination. He even raised two natives to the rank of Deputy Commissioner (one of whom still retains the same post). In fact he did everything that lay in his power to raise the status of the native administrative machinery. But the successors of Mr. Bowring imported men from other presidencies (especially Madras), who have now formed themselves into a clique, occupying almost all the important offices in the State. This clique has conceived a hatred for the old servants, and has obliged them to pass an examination on pain of forfeiting their appointments. Thus, many old and experienced men were mercilessly deprived of their long and well-earned bread. I beg to lay before the public, through the medium of your journal, one instance, which will be a striking illustration of the present state of affairs. An Assistant Commissioner, of 28 years standing and sound experience, was forced to pass an examination. He pleaded his inability on various and valid grounds, without avail. He was informed that he must pass the examination, or consider himself out of employment. After a long fight and after finding that the reasons for exemption urged by him would be fruitless, he submitted to the order, and appeared for the examination. He did his best, but the result was of course, failure. His answer papers, which could be in no other language than Canarese, were even denied the justice of perusal. He was again forced to appear. Having been laid up with fever, and thinking that the same result only could be attained as before, he stated his inability to go up and submitted a medical certificate. Upon this came in an order, suspending him for six months from office and emoluments.

The Assistant Commissioner, after first submitting appeal to H. E the Viceroy, through the Chief Commissioner has gone to Calcutta to represent his grievances in pension to Lord Lytton, and to seek redress at his Excellency's hands. We all hope that the justice which has been denied to him by the Local Government will be there granted to him.

We say *ditto*. It is strange that an officer after serving Government for 28 years with approbation and distinction, should be called upon to pass an examination, and that his papers being written in Canarese and therefore not scrutinized by the examiners he should have been suspended. The Government of India Resolution, dated the 17th June 1871 says that a Subordinate Magistrate shall not be entitled to a higher pay unless he has passed the prescribed examination. Now, Mr. Srinivassea Rao, the Assistant Commissioner referred to, did not claim promotion or increase of pay. And yet the Resolution has been made applicable to him, and he has been suspended. Driven to despair he has come down to Calcutta, and this fact alone shews the magnitude of his grievance. We hope he will not be permitted by the Viceroy to go away without receiving merited justice. We fear he has been a victim of cliquism in Mysore.

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A FREAK of the present Law Member of the Governor General's Council had deprived the Bengal Legislative Council of its power to legislate in local matters of grave importance. A step we observe will be taken immediately to correct this freak. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in announcing at its last sitting the programme of legislation for the current session of the Bengal Council said :

"He believed that at the next meeting of the Council of the Governor-General, a short provisional Bill would be passed, amending the Code, and the difficulties in the way of giving legal effect to the Chota Nagpore Rent Bill, which had been passed by this Council, would then be removed. When that had been done, they would also be able to bring in a Bill which had been discussed for a long time—a Bill which he had several times pledged himself to endeavour to have passed into law for improving the procedure in suits for rent. The consent of the Government of India to a Bill of that sort being introduced was obtained in the early part of 1877. After the Bill had been drafted and circulated for the consideration of a number of local officers of experience and certain public bodies and private individuals and the opinions of those officers and others had been received, he was advised that it, like the Chota Nagpore Rent Bill, was beyond the powers of the local Council, and should be dealt with by the Council of the Governor-General. He therefore addressed the Government of India and forwarded the draft of such a Bill as seemed to be required and requested that it should be considered and passed by the Council of the Governor-General; but on account of the difficulty to which he had referred, the Bill had remained untouched. The Bill was ultimately referred back to this Government, with the intimation that the Code of Civil Procedure should be so amended, that the Local Council would be able to take up the Bill and pass it themselves. The subject of the Bill was one which was obviously particularly within the province of a local Council to deal with. He hoped, as he had said before, that the Bill, to amend the Civil Procedure Code would be passed at the next meeting of the Council of the Governor-General and in anticipation of the passing of such a Bill, the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie would presently move for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the more speedy realization of arrears of rent."

In other words the old powers of the Bengal Council respecting rent legislation would be restored.

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HIS HONOR thus alluded to the proposed Rent Bill for Bengal :

"The draft of the Bill which the hon'ble member proposed to introduce, had been largely circulated for discussion amongst officers of experience and knowledge of the subject and the Government, had received a number of replies and many valuable suggestions and criticisms. There had also been a lengthy correspondence with the British Indian Association, in which they had represented their views very ably. There was at first a great difference of opinion between them and the Government regarding the transfer of occupancy rights; but although all the members of the Association did not agree to what was proposed, in respect to the transfer of occupancy tenures, the majority of the Association had withdrawn to a great extent, the objections which they had raised, and he hoped that in committee the Council would be able to come to some definite conclusion upon the subject. It must be expected that the landholding classes would be inclined strongly to the landholding view in this respect, but he believed that a perusal of the papers would show that the Association were disposed to consider the matter in an impartial spirit, and he thought they represented the general opinions of the landholding interest on this question."

At last there is a hope of the enactment of the long-talked-of Rent Bill.

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IN moving for leave to bring in the Rent Bill Mr. Mackenzie made the following remarks :

"The law's delays are, we know, proverbial, but the delays of Bengal rent suit in Bengal moonsiff's court, are more than even proverbial philosophy can make palatable. Notwithstanding the fact that in about 75 per cent. of the suits for arrears of rent the claim is not really contested the zemindars and other rent receivers have too often found themselves unable to recover their just dues without submitting to a process which entails costs that they may possibly never recover, and delays that are frequently embarrassing and ruinous; and even when the zemindar has got his decree, it by no means follows that he has got his rent. Now, it is doubtless true that much of this difficulty in realizing rent actually due, has arisen from the fact that in many districts there lie unsettled between landlords and tenants very serious open issues regarding rates, interests, tenant rights and so forth. And the zemindars were at the outset anxious that in any legislative settlement of the matter the whole field of dispute should be as it were cadastrally surveyed and all the doubtful boundary lines permanently marked. This course of action was as some of us are aware very strongly pressed upon the Government at the time of the Pubna rent disturbances and at the commencement of the more widespread though less noisy agrarian movement in Eastern Bengal; but even Sir George Campbell shrank from encountering the general upheaval of the whole rent system as by law established which such an inquiry and such legislation would certainly then have brought about. It was decided therefore to adopt a policy of watchfulness and waiting in the hope that compromise and common sense would lead both parties nearer to a mutual settlement. That policy has to a great extent been justified by its results, and you, Sir, were, able at the close of your first tour throughout the Eastern districts, to declare your satisfaction with the improved tone and feeling which you then found to exist between landlords and tenants, owing, as it appeared, to wise and mutual concessions made. If anything were required to prove the enormous difficulties which even now beset every attempt to deal by law with the details of the economic problems that are wrapped up in this question of enhancement, the criticisms elicited by the measure so ably advocated by Sir R. Temple two years ago, would supply ample proof. The present Government is now indeed considering the possibility of dealing with it by approaching the difficulty from a different side. A position which it is hopeless to storm in front, may sometimes (as at Peiwar Kothul) be successfully outflanked. It is just possible that by reverting to the old theory of rent adjustment in this country, as a matter for the arbitrament or settlement of the ruling power and its revenue officers—it is possible, I say, that we may find a rational remedy for the existing unsatisfactory deadlock. That, however, is a matter which needs careful consideration and jealous scrutiny, and circumstances have arisen which make it imperatively necessary to deal separately and at once with the more simple question of the recovery of undisputed arrears of rent."

We shall watch with interest the progress of the Bill through the Council.

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# WAR TELEGRAMS.

*Kojak December 22nd.*—The British Agent requested leave Kandahar "sic" has arrived in the camp and reports the garrison to consist of one Infantry, three Cavalry Regiments and a body of feudatory militia. The Herat troops have not arrived. Previous advices respecting the improbability of resistance appear to be confirmed. Supply depots at Quetta and Kojuck are being evergetically formed. The Kojuck route has been finally adopted. General Stewart's division is rapidly arriving at Quetta.

*Kojak December 22nd.*—Afzul Khan, the Governor of Kandahar having sent all his household belongings to Kabul, has been endeavouring to stir up a religious war, but with little success. A few assembled clamouring for food, There is much discontent in the city, provisions being difficult to obtain as they are not exposed for sale. Preparations are proceeding to send General Biddulph's force across the Kojuck. Part of Stewart's will probably advance by the Kaffila route.

*Peshawar December* 23rd.—The Mir Akhor is dead Jellalabad was occupied by our troops the evening before last. The Sirdars and others have offered to procure supplies Other troops are on the march to that place. The Bazar Valley was also occupied by General Doran's forces without opposition. The object was to burn the villages, several of which we destroyed. It is rumoured that the Amir has fled to Tashkend, and that Yakoob Khan has been placed on the throne. He is stirring up the Affghans and it is believed will collect a large force to oppose the British troops. Kabul is in a regular state of confusion. The F. C. R, H. A have arrived here from below, and will shortly proceed to the front.

*24th.*—The following are the particulars concerning the raid on the Bazar Valley ;—General Maude's force for the raid bivouacked at Nallai on the night of the 20th. The valley was occupied on the morning of the 21st by the force and also by Tytler's from Dukha. The villages were burnt and the towers blown up. Some of the enemy, whilst retiring, were captured, with their families and cattle. They were subsequently released after being disarmed. On the 22nd the force returned to Ali Masjid, burning *en route* the village of the inhabitants who have looted some baggage mules. Whilst still retiring a smart fire was opened on the rear of the column by the enemy wounding one Ghoorkha who subsequently died. Our fire drove off the enemy though occasional shots were fired at the rear guard till near Ali Masjid. Jelalabad was occupied on the 21st without opposition,

*Naushera. December* 26.—Yakub Khan is now said to be on the throne of Kabul, and as rumour goes negociations with him for peace have been sent to Sir Sam Browne at Jelalabad, but we are not in a position at present to guarantee his succession. On the attack at Bazzar large stores of grain were found, most of which were carried away by our commissariat and followers, and the rest burnt, The destruction of the villages and their contents appears to have been thorough, eleven towers being blown up, all works burnt, and irrigation works demolished.

*Kuram Thro' Thull, December 27th.*—According to a sentence of a general court-martial, a Pathan Sepoy of the 29th Punjab Infantry was hanged yesterday morning for treacherously firing into the rear during the night march towards the Spingwai Kotal, in order to warn the enemy of the British advance. The sentence came into execution before a parade of all the troops in Camp. A Pathan Jamadar was sentenced to seven years' transportation for screening the above Sepoy, and eighteen Pathans of the same regiment have received sentences varying from one year's imprisonment to fourteen years's transportation for desertion during the fight of the 2nd instant. A severe example was absolutely necessary and the execution of one Sepoy and these heavy sentences are likely to have a wholesome effect on the Pathans of this force of whom there are a large proportion.

General Roberts telegraphs that the telegraph line is complete and working as far as Kurram. Some Mangul headmen have come in and seem pleased at their reception

Captain Conolly of the Mywar Bhil Corps has been ordered up for active service in front., Captain Wyllie Assistant Commissioner Oudh has been transferred to the Political Department.

Reports from the Quetta force state that the present garrison of Kandahar is very small but there are rumours of its being reinforced from Herat.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

| MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS | Rs. | As. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| H. H. The Maharaja of Burdwan,..... | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| Capt. L. F. Jamieson, Haupper..... | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Rao Jogendronarain Roy Bahadur, Lalgola | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| M. Srinivassea Row Esq., Mysore..... | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Babu Mohimchunder Goopta, Kallygunge | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Hurrychurn Moekerjea, Dinagepore... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Kallynarain Roy, Dinagepore..... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Doorga Shahai, Bhurutpore..... | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| ,, Buddynath Chowdry, Ranigunge..... | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Rojonykant Bhuttacharjea, Diamond Harbour..... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Khetternath Chowdry, Saidabad..... | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| ,, Mohimchunder Roy, Nattore..... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Kadarressur Roy, Jessore..... | 18 | 4 | 0 |
| ,, Poornachunder Pal, Baheyra..... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Bhagiruthi Punda, Churamon..... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Jodoonath Ghose, Samagooting..... | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| ,, Haramohan Das, Rungpore Dhap... | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| ,, Kristokissore Roy, Munsoorgunge... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, Pearymohun Mittra, Burranagore... | 5 | 0 | 0 |

# Government Notifications

**Calcutta Gazette,**—*December* 25, 1878.

GENERAL.—The following officers are appointed to be ex-officio members of the Committee of Management of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens :—

The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.
,, ,, Dacca Division.
,, ,, Patna Division.
,, ,, Chittagong Division.
,, ,, Chota Nagpore Division.
,, ,, Orissa Division.
,, ,, Bhagulpore Division.
,, ,, Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division

Mr. F. R. S. Collier, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in temporary charge of the Goalundo division of the Furreedpore district, is appointed to have charge of the Seetamurhee division of the Muzufferpore district, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. R Marriott, or until further orders.

Moulvi Mahomed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 8th proximo, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. J. F. Bradbury, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Sarun, having reported his return to duty on the 28th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under the orders of the 7th ultimo is cancelled,

Captain C. H. Garbett, Assistant Commissioner, Lohardugga, is appointed to act until further orders, as Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom *vice* Major W. L. Samuells.

Major W. L Samuells Assistant Commissioner is posted to Lohardugga, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Singbhoom.

Mr. E. H. Ruddock, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted temporarily to Pubna.

Mr. J. E. B. Jeffery, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore, is vested with special appellate powers under Section 87 of the Land Registrat on Act VII (B C,) of 1876 in that district.

Baboo Promoda Nath Mookerjee is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade, during the absence, on deputation of Baboo Nobin Krisha Banerjee, *vice* Baboo Drija Das Dutt, M.A., resigned.

Baboo Promoda Nath Mookerjee is posted to Jhenidah, in the district of Jessore.

Baboo Kashi Kinker Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, who was, under orders of the 30th ultimo, posted to Bhagulpore, is transferred to Champarun.

Babo Abinash Churn Mullick, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Banka division of the Bhagulpore district, is transferred to the Sudder Station of that district.

Mr. H. A. D. Phillips Assistant Magistrate and Collector, whose sevices have been replaced at the disposal of this Government by the Government of Madras with effect from the 19th instant is appointed to have charge of the Khoorda division of the Pooree district.

Mr. Charles Peter Caspersz, who has recently been appointed to be a member of the Bengal Civil Service, is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in the Chittagong division. and is posted to the district of Chittagong,

Mr. H Gillon, whose services have been replaced at the disposal of this Government by the Government of Madras is appointed to act until further orders, in the First Grade of Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted temporarily to the district of Maldah.

M. J. C. Veasey is appointed to act until further orders in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors with effect from the 20th instant, and is posted to the district of Bogra.

Moulvi Mahomed-ul-Nobi, Sub-Deputy Collector, is appointed temporarily to be a Deputy Collector for employment under the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch of this Government, in Shahabad, with effect from the 1st August last.

Baboo Krishna Chunder Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca hrving reported his return to duty on the 8th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 30th July last, is cancelled.

Mr. W. O'Reilly, Sub-Divisional Officer of Buxa, in Julpigoree, is appointed, as Settlement Officer for the Western Dooars under Section 3, Act XVI of 1869, to exercise the powers of a Collector under Regulation VII of 1822, as provided in the rules annexed to the Act.

The following officers in Julpigoree are appointed, as Assistant Settlement Officers for the Western Dooars, under Section 3, Act XVI of 1869, to exercise the powers of a Deputy Collector under Regulation IX of 1833,

Baboo Omullo Churn Mullick, Officiating Deputy Collector.

Moulvi Wahidul'a, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector,

Mr. E. H. Ruddock, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collecter, Pubna, is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Mr. E. S Mosely, deceased.

Mr, J. Whitmore Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Balasore, is appointed to be a Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade *vice* Mr E H Ruddock

Mr. A. D'B. Gomess, Commissioner of the Soonderbuns, is allowed leave for three months under Section 3, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code.

Moulvi Motioollah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bogra is allowed leave for three months under Section 3, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Promotho Nath Bose, Officiating Sub-Deputy Collector, Julpigoree, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 31, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. A. Weekes, Magistrate and Collector, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which his services may be replaced at the disposal of this Government by the Government of Madras.

Babee Nishi Kanth Banerjee Chowdry is appointed temporarily to be a Sub Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Baboo Nolin chunder Roy, and is posted to the Pubna district.

The orders of the 29th October last, granting three months privilege leave to Baboo Koylash Chunder Ghose, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Orissa, and appointing Baboo Annada Prosad Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kendraparah, cuttack, to act for him, are cancelled.

The orders of the 16th instant, appointing Mr. K. G Gupta, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector on leave, to the charge of the Kendraparah division, Cuttack are cancelled

# Advertisements.

The Lieutenant Governor's Garden Party, for which invitations were issued for Tuesday the 24th instant, is postponed till Thursday the 9th January 1879.

(Sd.) G. F. WILSON, Lt. R.N., A. D. C.

The Fine Arts Exhibition will be opened by His Excellency the Viceroy at 4 P. M., on the 1st of January 1879 at the Government Art Gallery in Bow Bazar. Admission on the opening day will be only by season tickets which can be procured from the Honorary Secretaries, from the Editors of the "Hindoo Patriot" and the "Indian Mirror," and from Messrs. Thacker Spink and Company, Messrs. Newman and Company and Messrs. Brown and Company at the following rates :—

Single Ticket to admit one person..... Rs. 8
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The Exhibition will remain open until the 1st of February. After the opening day persons who do not hold season tickets will be admitted on payment of 4 annas. Special arrangements will be made to enable native ladies, who do not appear in public to see the Exhibition. Particulars of these arrangements can be ascertained from the Honorary Secretaries.

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K. P. C.

Being myself, at present, above 75 years of age I cannot be expected to resort to the Public ; but must say, I cannot be left out of sharing the melancholy events which have occurred to our venerable Prince family, to whom I am indebted for my support, and education in general from my youthful days, so that, since the administration of their Government all rest attended to me, and no danger occurred. I hope, Heaven will restores peace to the mind of our Ruler, and consoles the event that has unexpectedly occurred.

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2. Tenders may be for the coal at all or any one of these places.

3. Contractors to deposit earnest money in accordance with the provisions on back of Public Works Form No. 14M, but the money may be deposited in the office of the Executive Engineer 1st Calcutta Division, a deposit certificate accompanying the Tender.

4. Samples of coal must be laid before the Executive Engineer 1st Calcutta Division for his approval, a certificate of his having approved the same shall accompany the same.

5. Forms of Tender can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or from that of the Executive Engineer of the 1st Calcutta Division.

6. All Coal must be delivered by the 15th February 1879.

7. Tenders will be opened by the undersigned or his assistant at noon on the 15th January 1879. The undersigned does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Executive Engineer, Dinagepore Division.
Dated Rungpore, 24th December 1878.

## HOOGHLY BRIDGE TOLLS.

The Commissioners are prepared to receive Tenders for farming the Tolls collected on the Hooghly Bridge.

Forms of tender, and of the agreement to be entered into by intending lessees, setting forth the terms on which the tolls will be let, can be had on application to the Secretary, and the tenders will be received at the Office of the Commissioners up to 2 P.M. of Tuesday the 31st day of December 1878.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

A deposit of Rs. 500 must accompany each tender which amount will be returned if the tender is not accepted.

Tenders should be sealed and superscribed "Tender for Hooghly Bridge Tolls."

G. H. SIMMONS,
Secretary Bridge Commissioners.

BRIDGE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
11th December 1878.

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Dated Allipore } R. C. Sterndale
*The 12th December* 1878. } *Vice Chairman.*

## BURDWAN.

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**Report by the Directors**
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